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No. 7802.—VOL. L. *FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH* 21, 1890. *Price One Penny.*

TO-NIGHT'S ENTERTAINMENTS.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. BEERBOHM TREE.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8.30, A MAN'S SHADOW, by ROBERT BUCHANAN. LAST EIGHT NIGHTS. Mr. TREE as LAROQUE and LUVERSAN. Messrs. Fernandez, Kemble, C. Collette, E. M. Robson, Allan, Hargreaves Tapping, Gurney, Harwood; Miss Julia Neilson, Miss Minnie Terry, Miss Norreys, and Miss Marion Terry. At 7.45, GOOD FOR NOTHING Miss Norreys. Doors open 7.30. Box-office open 10 till 5. Pit Circle (unreserved), 2s. 6d. Gallery, 1s.
MATINEE of A MAN'S SHADOW TO-MORROW (Saturday), and following SATURDAY, at 2.30.

LYCEUM THEATRE.
(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. HENRY IRVING.)
THE DEAD HEART—A Story of the French Revolution. TO-NIGHT at Eight o'clock (148th time). Mr. Henry Irving, Mr. Bancroft, Mr. Stirling, Mr. Righton; Miss Phillips and Miss Ellen Terry. Box office (Mr. J. Hurst) open daily 10 to 5. Seats can also be booked by letter or telegram. Carriages, 10.45. MATINEES of THE DEAD HEART. There will be two morning performances of The Dead Heart on Saturdays 12th and 19th April. On these Saturday nights THE BELLS will be played.

CRITERION THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. CHARLES WYNDHAM
THIS EVENING, at 8.30, OUR BOYS. (Last night.) Mr. Leonard Boyne, Mr. Arthur Elwood, Mr. E. W. Gardiner, Mr. H. Saker; Mesdames Olga Brandon, E. Brunton, F. Frances, E. Vining. Preceded by, at 7.50, SWEETHEART, GOOD-BYE. Doors open at 7.30. N.B.—Re-appearance of Mr. Charles Wyndham, Miss Mary Moore, and Company, in DAVID GARRICK, TO-MORROW (Saturday).

GAIETY THEATRE.
TO-NIGHT, at 8 punctually, RUY BLAS AND THE BLASE ROUE. Miss Ellen Farren, Miss Sylvia Grey, Miss Linda Verner, Miss Couteur Miss Blanche Massey, and Miss Letty Lind; Mr. Fred. Leslie, Mr. G. T. Minshull, and Mr. Fred. Storey. Doors open at 7.40.

TERRY'S THEATRE.
(Proprietor and Lessee, Mr. EDWARD TERRY.)
(Manageress, Miss GRAHAME.)
TO-NIGHT, at 9, NEW LAMPS FOR OLD. Messrs. W. S. Penley, Bernard Gould, W. Lestocq, and F. Kerr. Mesdames Cissy Grahame, Houston, and Gertrude Kingston. At 8.30 THE PARTING OF THE WAYS. Mesdames M. A. Giffard Helen Leyton, Rose Dearing; Oscar Adye, and J. Nelson. Doors open at 8. Carriages at 11. Box Office open 10 till 5. MATINEE TO-MORROW (Saturday), at 3. Acting Manager, Mr. H. T. BRICKWELL.

TOOLE'S THEATRE.
TO-NIGHT, at 9, THE BUNGALOW, by FREDERICK HORNER. 185th Performance. The greatest success of modern times. Received with roars of laughter and thunders of applause. At 8.15, ISALDA. Doors open 7.45. Messrs. C. Glenney, Yorke Stephens, Compton Coutts, Bassett Roe, Matthew Brodie, R. Stockton, and Fred Kaye; Misses Sophie Larkin, Helen Forsyth, Vane Featherston, Marie Illington, and Cicely Richards. MORNING PERFORMANCE EVERY WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY at 2.15. Doors open at 2.

ADELPHI THEATRE.
(A. and S. GATTI, Sole Proprietors and Managers.)
THIS EVENING, at 8.0, LONDON DAY BY DAY. Immense success. 163rd Time. Mr. Frank Cooper, Messrs. Marius, J. D. Beveridge, J. L. Shine, Lionel Rignold, W. L. Abingdon, Theo. Balfour, M. Bode, H. Russell, James East, W. Northcote, J. Northcote, &c.; Mesdames Alma Murray, Mary Rorke, Kate James, Charlotte Elliott, and Clara Jecks. Doors open at 7.0. THE MARRIED BACHELOR, at 7.15.

VAUDEVILLE THEATRE.
(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. THOMAS THORNE.)
THIS EVENING at 8.30, CLARISSA, at 7.45, MEADOW SWEET. Mr. Thomas Thorne, Messrs. T. B. Thalberg, Cyril Maude, Oswald Yorke, J. S. Blythe, Harbury, F. Grove, F. Gillmore, and Fred Thorne; Miss Winifred Emery, Mesdames Mary Collette, C. Owen, L. Bryer, F. Weymss, Lily Hanbury, and Miss Banister. MATINEE of CLARISSA TO-MORROW (Saturday), at 2.30.

THE GLOBE THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. R. BENSON.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8, HAMLET. Messrs. Cartwright, Benson, Black, Ross, Stuart, Grenville, Howard, Gurney, Hallard, Rosoman, Shaw, Weir, Forde, Brydone, Major, Meadows, Farwell, Phillips; Mesdames Ferrar, Selwyn, Benson.
N.B.—A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM EVERY EVENING at 8 (Thursdays and Fridays excepted) and WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY MATINEES at 2.30.

PRINCESS'S THEATRE.
MASTER AND MAN.
TO-NIGHT, at 7.45, HENRY PETTITT and GEORGE R. SIMS' powerful play, MASTER AND MAN, in which the following popular artists will appear:—Messrs. Henry Neville, J. H. Barnes, Robert Pateman, Brandon Thomas, Sidney Howard, Charles Dalton, Bassett Roe, Fred Shepherd, George Dalziel, E. Mayeur, E. Webster Lawson; Miss Edith Bruce, Mrs. Frank Huntley, and Miss Bella Pateman. Doors open 7.15. Commence 7.45. Box-office (Mr. A. Frye) open daily from ten till five. Seats at all the libraries.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.
(Sole Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. Langtry.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8, AS YOU LIKE IT. Mrs. Langtry; Mesdames M'Neil, Lea, Lamb, Armbruster, &c.; Messrs. Cautley, Bourchier, Sugden, Everill, Fulton, Brodie, Forbes, Gay, Lewis, Canninge, Lawford, Crover, Lingham, Arncliffe, Erlynne, Yorke, &c. Doors open 7.30, carriages at 11.

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. HORACE SEDGER.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8.15, MARJORIE. Miss Phyllis Broughton, Mdme. Amadi and Miss Camille d'Arville; Messrs. C. Hayden Coffin, Joseph Tapley, Henry Ashley, Frederick Wood, Albert James, T. A. Shale, A. T. Hendon, and Harry Monkhouse. Preceded at 7.30 by ALL ABROAD. Morning Performance EVERY SATURDAY at 2.30. Telephone No. 3,700.

GARRICK THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. JOHN HARE.)
THIS EVENING, at 8.50, A PAIR OF SPECTACLES. Mr. John Hare, Mr. C. Groves Mr. R. Cathcart, Mr. S. Brough, Mr. C. Dodsworth, Mr. F. H. Knight, Mr. R. Harding, Mr. Byron, Miss Blanche Horlock, Miss F. Hunter, and Miss Kate Rorke. Preceded, at 8, by DREAM FACES. Mr. J. Forbes Robertson, Mr. S. Brough, Mr. S. Pringle; Miss Blanche Horlock and Miss Carlotta Addison (specially engaged) will appear. Doors open 7.40. MATINEE TO-MORROW (Saturday), at 2 P.M. Doors open at 1.30. Box-office open from 10 to 5. Acting Manager, Mr. C. G. COMPTON.

SHAFTESBURY THEATRE.
Messrs. E. S. WILLARD and JOHN LART, Lessees and Managers. Proprietor, Mr. JOHN LANCASTER.
THIS EVENING at 8, THE MIDDLEMAN.
LAST EIGHT NIGHTS.
Mr. Willard, Messrs. Mackintosh, E. W. Garden, H. Cane, H. V. Esmond, Ivan Watson, Cecil Crofton, Royston Keith; Mesdames Maude Millett, Annie Hughes, E. H. Brooke, Annie Hill, St. Ange, Eva Moore, &c. Box-office now open daily, 10 to 5. Doors open 7.40. Carriages 11. Acting Manager, Mr. W. H. GRIFFITHS.—SHAFTESBURY THEATRE.

LYRIC THEATRE.
(Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. HENRY J. LESLIE.)
EVERY EVENING, at 8.20, THE RED HUSSAR. Mesdames Maud Holland, Lewis, Mrs. Sidney, E. Bruet, and Florence Dysart; Messrs. Ben Davies Alec Marsh, G. Willoughby, J. Le Hay, Frank M. Wood, and Arthur Williams. Preceded at 7.30, by WARRANTED BURGLAR PROOF. MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY at 2.30.

COMEDY THEATRE
TO-NIGHT and EVERY EVENING, at 9 P.M., the celebrated Comedy PINK DOMINOS, adapted by JAMES ALBERY, with powerful cast, including Messrs. Herbert Standing, Alfred Maltby A. Boucicault, &c., and C. H. Hawtrey; Mesdames Goldney, Robertson, Cowell, Alma Stanley, and Rose Saker; preceded, at 8, by ONE SUMMER NIGHT, by H. W. Broughton. Box-office open daily from 10 A.M. to 10 P.M. Telephone, 3,724.

COURT THEATRE.
(Proprietors, Mrs. JOHN WOOD and Mr. ARTHUR CHUDLEIGH.)
TO-NIGHT at 9, 224th performance of AUNT JACK. Mr. Arthur Cecil, Mr. Weedon Grossmith, Mr. Eric Lewis, Mr. F. Mervin, Mr. Fred Cape, Mr. A. Aynesworth, Mr. W. Phillips, Mr. F. Farren, Mr. Powell, Mr. W. Quinton; Miss Rosina Filippi, Miss Florence Wood, and Mrs. John Wood. At 8.15, TO THE RESCUE. Mr. R. Boleyn, Mr. F. Farren. Miss F. Harrington and Mrs. Phelps.
COURT THEATRE will be CLOSED during Passion Week, RE-OPENING EASTER MONDAY with AUNT JACK.
Notice.—LAST WEEKS of AUNT JACK.

AVENUE THEATRE.
(Under the Management of Mr. GEORGE ALEXANDER.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8.30, MISS CINDERELLA. At 9, DR. BILL.
Messrs. George Alexander, Nutcombe Gould, Benjamin Webster, George Capel, Henry Grattan, and Albert Chevalier; Mesdames Robins, Carlotta Leclercq, Marie Linden, Laura Graves, Edith Kenward, Lilly Young, and Fanny Brough. Doors open at 8.
MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY,
at 2.30. Doors open 2 o'clock. Box-office open daily from 10 till 5.
Business Manager, Mr. R. D'ALBERTSON.

ALHAMBRA VARIETY THEATRE.
ASMODEUS," at 9 o'clock, and "OUR ARMY AND NAVY," at 10.50. Signorina Bessone; Mdlles. Saracco, Marie, Thurgate, and Vergé, and Signor De Vincenti. Varieties by BRUET and RIVIERE, the Sisters Ethardo, Miss Annie Albu, Marvelle's Boarhounds and the Dog "Rags," the Albert and Edmunds' Troupe, the Arabian Whirligigs, Sherman and Morissy, Mari Lloyd, George English, and JAMES FAWN. Open 7.45 until 11.30.

EMPIRE THEATRE.
Commence at 7.50. Two Grand Ballets. At 9.0 THE PARIS EXHIBITION. At 10.30, A DREAM OF WEALTH, by M. KATTI LANNER Music by M. LEOPOLD WENZEL. Mdlles. Palladino and Bettina de Sortis, Signor Albertieri and Signorina Malvina Cavalazzi. Grand Variety Entertainment. At 10, Miss Amy Roselle will recite THE SIEGE OF LUCKNOW, specially written for her by H. SAVILE CLARKE, Esq. No free list.

ROYAL, Holborn.
GRAND HOLIDAY PROGRAMME.—G. H. Macdermott, the popular actor and vocalist; the Mannons, in a novel musical absurdity; Yosituro, the wonderful Jap; the Brantfords, American variety artists; Ottaway and Pepper; Abe Daniels, musical clown; Dora Fielding; Arthur Tinsley; Petrot, the marvellous mimic; Sam Torr; Prof. Wingfield's Dogs; Ryan and Richfield; Nelly Chapman; Albert and Edmund Troupe, the Elopement; James Fawn, comic; the Kellenos Troupe; Sadi Grossmith; first appearance in the variety halls of Miss Kate Chard, the famous opera bouffe prima donna; Marion Graham; George Leyton, comedian.
EVENINGS 7.30; SATURDAY MATINEES, 2.30. Prices of admission from 6d. to £2 2s.

ENGLAND THE UNREADY.

The first point which strikes us in the consideration of the organization of these two great departments is that while in action they must be to a large extent dependent on each other, and while in some of the arrangements necessary as a preparation for war they are absolutely dependent on the assistance of each other, little or no attempt has ever been made to establish settled and regular inter-communication or relations between them. It has been stated in evidence before us that no combined plan of operations for the defence of the Empire in any given contingency has ever been worked out or decided upon by the two departments; that some of the questions connected with the defence of military ports abroad, and even of those at home, are still, after much departmental correspondence, in an unsettled condition, and that the best mode of garrisoning some of the distant coaling stations is also undecided.

The only responsible adviser of the Secretary of State is the Commander-in-Chief, who has a multitude of other duties to perform—duties recently largely increased—and most of the other principal professional officers have neither the time nor the official position which would qualify them to act as responsible advisers of the Secretary of State on important questions of military policy. One of the immediate results of this defect is that wholesale recourse is had to committees appointed to deal with certain classes of questions. In practice this system cannot and does not work well. It has been brought to our notice that no less than seven committees with "no common link between them" have at different times advised the Secretary of State with regard to the defences of Bermuda.

We consider that it is necessary to take measures to prevent the undue depletion of stores, the danger of which has been pointed out to us. While it appears undesirable to enter into the question of the extent to which this depletion may or may not have taken place in the past, we are of opinion that safeguards against such a possibility are required.

THE Report on the Army and Navy, from which the above texts are taken, is one of the most important State Documents of recent years. The subject of National Defence with which it deals, is the most important subject of State polity. But it is also the one which has been worst managed in this country. The Report goes fully into the abuses of the existing system—save the mark!—and fully also into remedies. The discussion of the latter is, if beset with difficulty, also replete with interest. But before it is of much profit to discuss what should be done, it is essential to decide that something should be done. We have therefore put in the forefront of this article a few passages from the Report which bring out in salient fashion the deplorable and scandalous plight of England the Unready.

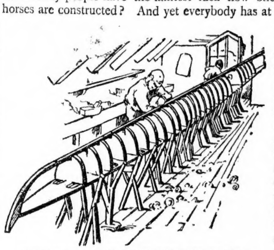
Not, of course, that there is any novelty in the statements made by the Commissioners. The happy-go-lucky waiting upon chance in the matter of national defence, the muddle and waste at the War Office, the chaos of authorities, the ingenious contrivances for avoiding having anybody directly responsible for anything: these are scandals of the public service which have been notorious for years to all who read the newspapers. But it is a great thing to have these scandals placed, once and for all, on record by a Royal Commission, beyond all possibility not only of contradiction, but, we trust, of shelving. The relation of the Treasury to the two Departments is held over for a Supplementary Report. Lord RANDOLPH'S Select Committee has already prepared us for a fresh budget of abuses under this head; but even without them, the Report as already issued is a sweeping condemnation of the successive Parliaments and Ministries which have so culpably neglected their first duties to their country.

How is the neglect to be repaired? We can only on this occasion refer to the recommendations of the Report in the briefest and most summary fashion. The essential points in the recommendations are these:—(1) the re-organization of each department, so that there shall in each be an equivalent to the German "Chief of the General Staff." In the case of the Admiralty, this officer would be the First Naval Lord; in the case of the War Office, the office of Commander-in-Chief would be split up. (2.) The "recognition of the complete and individual responsibility" to Parliament and the country of the First Lord and the War Minister severally. (3) Lastly, in order to secure co-ordination between the two Departments, the formation of a Naval and Military Council under the presidency of the Prime Minister. On the first of these three points the Commissioners were substantially unanimous, and there is no reason why their recommendations should not be substantially carried out. On the second and third points, which are even more important, the Commissioners were unhappily divided, and this division of counsel will form a pretext no doubt for dilatoriness in action. Everybody is agreed that the essential thing is to fix responsibility. Lord RANDOLPH thinks that this can only be effectually done by making the professionals responsible. The majority of his colleagues prefer to make the politicians responsible. But how it is to be done, they do not explain. A mere declaratory clause in a Report will not secure it. In theory they are responsible already—with what results we have seen above. It could be wished that the Report had been more explicit on the possibility of curing the old evils by continuing the old system.

HOW A 'VARSITY BOAT IS BUILT.

A CHAT WITH MR. J. H. CLASPER.

How many people have the faintest idea how one of these water race-horses are constructed? And yet everybody has at one time or the other admired their beautiful proportions, and gazed with delight upon their fish-like movements as they shoot through the water. How do these feather-weight craft hold those muscular young athletes, to say nothing of the cox.? As they rest on the water they look much too fragile for a fierce contest like the University race. To settle the question one of our representatives called on Mr. Clasper, who has built both the boats for this year's contest, and he writes as follows:—


FOUNDATION FRAME: WITH KEEL AND MOULDS.

Mr. Clasper is an old Northumbrian, and many years' residence on the banks of the Thames has not liquefied the burr of his county. The famous boatbuilder was supervising the packing of an eight-oar in its travelling case, which looked something like a coffin for a skeleton dude sixty feet long. "You send boats abroad, Mr. Clasper?" I asked. "Certainly, scores of them. Wherever English is spoken, and there's a drop of water, they send to the old country for boats. To India, Australia, Germany—aye, even to Moscow we send. This, by the way," bringing me to a single sculling skiff, "is Mr. Guy Nickalls's boat. It's never been beaten, and has come in first twice for the Diamonds and three times for the Wingfields." And Mr. Clasper cast a look of intense affection upon the product of his brains and hands "She only weighs twenty pounds," he continued, lifting the delicate little lady—all boats are ladies—with one hand. "And now, sir, come up-stairs, and I'll show you an eight-oar in the course of building." I followed Mr. Clasper through one carpenter's shop, and up a flight of stairs into another, commanding a delightful view of the river, which looked ever so pretty, dancing and sparkling in the hot sun, and dotted all over with craft. The sound of music stole up into the workshop. The tuneful chorus of a humble little band of children, who were turning a penny on the tow-path, mingled with the strains of an organ, the shrill notes of Punch's pan-pipes, the barking of dog Toby, who was performing below, and the hubbub of the crowd as it filed to and fro waiting for the Blues to put in an appearance. Mr. Clasper keeps a dozen


BENDING THE CEDAR SKIN.

FOOTBALL NOTES.

A SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

It has been rumoured from time to time that many of the chief southern clubs meditated the formation of a league on the lines of that which has done so much to increase the finances of their professional brethren in the north. I was disinclined to attach any credence to these rumours, but the result of a special meeting of the London Association, which was called to consider the question, leads me to alter my opinion. The association was, it appears, desirous of retaining in its own hands the management of any new organizations in London, if such were formed, but at the same time its committee were strongly against a league being formed at all. The meeting was about equally divided as to the desirability of following the example of the Northerners, but it was unanimous in its opinion that the London Association should take no steps in the matter.

THE PREVENTION OF BETTING.

I am very glad to see that the Yorkshire committee has resolved to take active measures against betting at football matches. It has begun by calling on the executives of its clubs to prevent bookmakers from openly plying their trade on the grounds. I am afraid that no coercive measures will have much effect, but it is possible by calling in the police to put an end to the scandal of public betting, and to show that it is discountenanced by the authorities. This was the course pursued with a certain amount of success a summer or two back by a well-known London athletic club.

THE RUGBY CUP TIES.

The Yorkshire and Midland Cup-ties are reaching an interesting stage. Both Otley and Liversedge, the cup-holders and their rivals in the final round of last season, have been dismissed from the Yorkshire competition, the remaining clubs being for the most part those generally recognized as the strongest in the county. The issue will probably lie between Bradford, Huddersfield, Wakefield, Trinity, and Hunslet. The Midland cup-holders have also gone down, and the final round will be played to-morrow between Burton and the Old Edwardians.

THE LARGEST GATE ON RECORD.

The number of spectators present at the England *v.* Ireland match cannot be given, as the returns of the ticket-sellers have not come in, but there is every reason to compute it at between 10,000 and 12,000. This is undoubtedly the largest attendance that has ever been registered at a Rugby game in the South of England, and is about double the average "gate" of previous internationals played at Blackheath. The inaccessibility of the ground, which is more than a mile distant from the nearest station, makes these figures all the more remarkable The majority of the spectators had to brave the discomforts of a journey in an overcrowded South Eastern train. The football fever is decidedly on the increase in the metropolis.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION MATCHES.

Unlike their Rugby Union brethren, who have the credit of being the only team to beat England this year, the Welshmen, playing the dribbling game, were unable to make any stand against the wearers of the rose. The match took place at Wrexham; and, judging from the reports, the authorities deserve censure for the excessively bad arrangements they had made. It has hitherto been the rule for international matches to be played on a full-sized ground, and without encroachments by the spectators. At Wrexham neither of these conditions was fulfilled, and consequently the game was shorn of much of its effect. After a deal of scrambling play, in which the energy of the Welsh backs was conspicuous, England retired victorious by three goals to one.

ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND.

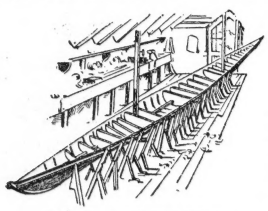
England is determined to make a good fight with Scotland this year, and, to prevent the serious mistakes which were made in the selection of the team last year, a trial match will this time be played. It is to take place at Nottingham next Monday, and two very strong teams have been selected for it. These are described as "Whites and Blues," those being the distinguishing colours. Judging from the arrangement of the teams, the committee has about equally divided the best players, which, in my opinion, is a mistake. It would have been much better to have selected a probable team with five forwards, used to each others' play, for then the game would have improved their combination, and have increased their chances of beating Scotland.

THE AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP.

Matches between the Queen's Park Club and the Corinthians may be said to decide the right to this title, for each is the leading amateur team in its own country. The Queen's Park has had a remarkably successful season, having only lost one match, namely, on New Year's Day, when the Corinthians beat them at Glasgow. Last week they defeated the Blackburn Rovers by six goals to none, and among their other achievements they have won the Scottish and Glasgow Challenge Cups. The performances of the Corinthians need no recapitulation here—they are well known in England. Both clubs are great public favourites, and as each will be strongly represented, a great struggle for victory may be anticipated. I fancy the Scotchmen will avenge their former defeat, for they are playing very well now, while the Englishmen have not recently shown good form.

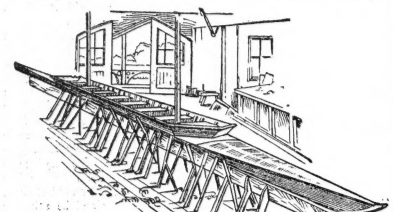
M. P.

of them going all the year round, and seldom has time to build a boat for stock, so the demand for boats must be considerable. "Good boatbuilders are difficult to get, for it is a teasing trade, and you may say that most of us here have been born among the shavings. You see, sir, it requires a very careful hand, and a man must work to the sixteenth of an inch."



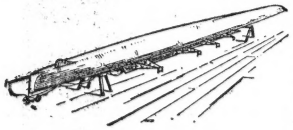
ON THE STOCKS: THE CEDAR SKIN ON.

"Well, to begin, Mr. Clasper, how long are the 'Varsity boats?" —"Sixty feet, or an inch or two over; they weigh 200 pounds, all told, except the oars, which weigh seven or eight pounds each, and are a trade of themselves. Then you must take off from the 200 pounds about 30 pounds for the riggers, which are of hollow tube iron." —"How long does it take you to make one of them?"—"We like six weeks, but I have made them in as short as ten days, though that doesn't give us a fair chance." "And the cost?"—"Fifty pounds." When one comes to appreciate the remarkable amount of work which is required to turn out a boat complete, this low figure is rather surprising. "And now, Mr. Clasper," I continued, "how does the order come from the 'Varsity?" — "They just send me the weights—see them on that paper," pointing to a list of figures pinned up over one of the benches at which the wily Winship, a well-known craftsman, was taking his afternoon tea; "these are the weights of the Cambridge crew—90 st. 11 lb., without the cox. That's all I get as a rule, and I have to fit 'em like a glove, or there's a row, and the 'Varsities are mighty particular, and critical to the sixteenth of an inch. It's not much to go by, is it, 90.11," mused Mr. Clasper aloud, his fingers playing idly with a pair of golden oars which depended from his watch chain in company with a gold medal. "Not much 90.11, and they're mighty particular gents and very hard to please. I do my best though, and I generally 'succeed. It's like a tailor measuring you for a suit of new clothes. The 90.11 is inclusive, but I separate the weights, and from them I arrange my moulds." "Moulds, Mr. Clasper, moulds?" "Ah! come this way, and I will explain to you now how the boats are built." On



ONLY THE SLIDING SEATS TO PUT IN.

the stocks lay the shell of a sixty-foot boat, and with this as his subject Mr. Clasper explained the process of manufacture. "First we lay down a framework upon which the moulds are placed, these moulds determining the size and trim of the boat. Upon these the keel, which is of pine, and may be of several lengths, is placed as shown in the sketches. These moulds vary from 2 feet to 2 inches, and are wooden semi-circles, which are used again and again for different boats. These being adjusted according to the weight and positions of the eight men in the boat, the heavier the man the deeper and wider the mould, the shell is put over them in three or four sections of two halves each. This is a most delicate operation, as you may readily imagine when it is stated that the cedar is only a veneer of 3-16 of an inch in thickness. To bend the flat boards to the necessary quarter-circle shape they are placed over a casting-box of metal which is heated by gas-jets. The top side of the board is kept wet with a sponge, and in a few minutes it gradually curls up to the shape required, when it is placed over the moulds and fastened with copper rivets to the keel. The same process is repeated until the whole of the skin is placed in position. The next process is to put in the ribs of ash; the whole is riveted, the moulds are taken out, the narrow gunwale of pine is fixed to the shell, and the wash-boards for the outrigs are put on. The seats, fixed and sliding, are then put in; strips of the finest linen, heavily varnished, cover up the narrow ends, and the whole being varnished three times, you have a 'Varsity boat complete, and a more graceful, fragile craft is not built. The one I saw in Mr. Clasper's boat-house was the Cambridge ship under lock and key, looking for all the world like a huge cigar, except for that dorsal fin of copper just near the stern, which gave it a fish-like appearance. That is the countervail, a contrivance of Mr. Clasper's for steadying the ship in a wind and relieving the cox. from the necessity of meeting the pressure with the rudder. And thus you see these lightning racers are composed of the pliable cedar, the tough ash, the light pine, the prow of willow, a few pounds of copper rivets, a yard or two of fine linen, a few buckets of varnish, and infinite skill and accuracy.



"RESTING."

Mr. Clasper then gave me a few facts about boats. His father was a sculler in the days—forty years ago—when they used inrigged V-shaped boats. He was a sculler first and boatbuilder afterwards, and having turned the matter over in his mind, began to trim and cut the heavy and unwieldy monster, started the outrigger, and rounded off the angle of the V, and now the boat is like a cigar. Clasper the second built his first 'Varsity boat in 1870, the year when Cambridge won after being beaten for nine consecutive years, and the result brought honour and glory to him. So that since then he has built now for one 'Varsity, now for the other, and sometimes for both, and the name of Clasper is known all over the world.

MR. BERESFORD-HOPE AND SIR W. DE SOUZA.

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—Mr. Tilleard has stated in his letter in your issue of the 19th that he did not inform Miss Cons and myself, on the occasion of his serving notices upon us at the door of the Guildhall, that he was Mr. Beresford-Hope's solicitor. All I can say as regards this matter is that I can corroborate distinctly Miss Cons' statement that Mr. Tilleard, on addressing us, made mention of Mr. Beresford-Hope's name, upon which Miss Cons said, "You are not Mr. Beresford-Hope." The reply given by Mr. Tilleard was, "I am his solicitor." The gentleman was evidently nervous in having to perform so unpleasant a piece of work. What he meant to say we do not know, but that he did make the above statement we are absolutely sure.—I am yours truly,

JANE COBDEN.

10, Hereford-square, S.W., March 20.

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

The coal miners' strike has ended, as we prognosticated at the beginning of the week on the strength of what has proved sound information. The men have practically obtained all that was contained in their amended offer, as they receive an advance of 5 per cent. now, and 5 per cent. in August instead of July. It is to be hoped that the arrangements for dealing with wages questions in future, which have been agreed upon in principle, will prevent a repetition of the experience of the past few weeks.

If the Conservatives had any heart put into them by yesterday's meeting at the Carlton, they must be very easy folk to "enthuse." A more hopeless and helpless spirit than animated Lord Salisbury's speech it would be impossible to imagine. The Tories are to pass the Tithes Bill—not because there are no "grave and serious objections" to it, but because, if they do not, the Liberals will pass a bigger measure. They are to buy out the Irish landlords—not because the thing is good in itself, but because it might take some wind out of the Home Rule sails. Education is to be "assisted," but the "assistance" is only meant as a dodge whereby to secure the Voluntary schools from attack. There would be something constructive and positive about a Local Government Bill for Ireland; but *that* the Tories were told not to expect yet awhile. As for the by-elections, the Tories have done badly; but this, Lord Salisbury implied, was only to be expected. It is a good thing the Prime Minister is going abroad for change of air; he is obviously suffering from political, if not from physical, depression.

What a sham these party meetings, like the one at the Carlton yesterday, are to be sure! They are supposed to be private, but a reporter is present. They pretend to promote the harmony of the party, but this is done by carefully excluding the chief controversial topics. Finally, the Conservative party exists in office simply and solely by the votes of the Liberal-Unionists; and yet this contingent—the very bodyguard though it be of the army—is not invited to the gathering. No wonder that it is an empty and hollow affair!

There is only one phrase—the more expressive because purely colloquial—to describe the impression made on public opinion by the new era in Germany. The Emperor is "going it," and no mistake. The extraordinary effect which his daring self-reliance has had on the popular imagination is best seen by the wild rumours which are now daily sent into circulation about his projects. To-day we are told that he has decided to repeal the Septennate, that he intends to "abolish standing armies," and that he has been conferring with M. Jules Simon upon the surrender of Alsace-Lorraine. To-morrow we shall no doubt be solemnly assured that he has resolved to neutralize the Rhine and to summon a Congress to discuss how the German Empire can best be converted into a Federal Republic.

Mr. Plunket stated last night that, so far as his department was concerned, the Government never had concerned itself, and never would, with the wages, the hours of labour, or the treatment of workmen employed by them through contractors. It is just as well that this fact should be impressed and remembered about a Government which, on occasion, can mouth loudly enough about its desire for the welfare of the workmen of the country.

We fail to seize the point of the suggestion in the *Daily News* that the attempt of the lady reporter to do away with sex-disqualification in the gallery of the House of Commons is vitiated by the fact that the *Women's Penny Paper* employs only women. To ordinary minds, the fact that it has been found desirable to supplement the masculine press by journals devoting special attention to the interests of women, and treating public questions from a distinctively feminine point of view, would appear to be an additional argument, so far as it goes, for the introduction of at least some small proportion of the same element in the reporting of the House of Commons. Apart from this, we have no doubt that dozens of journals have a claim precedent to that of the *Women's Penny Paper*. That, if anything, is the real case against the concession which is asked for. But as it is on the ground of sex-disability that the opposition has been distinctly based, we are bound to say—without for one moment ignoring the temporary inconvenience which reorganization in all these cases involves—that that opposition has not logically a leg to stand on.

We are glad to see that in the official report of the meeting at the Carlton which has been given to the world this morning Lord Salisbury's declaration about Swaziland (which may be found in the report which we were enabled to publish yesterday) has been passed over in a vague periphrasis. That piece of official sub-editing is at least a small sign of grace. Whether the Government are right or not in deciding that the friendship of the Boers in South Africa is not worth purchasing at the cheap sacrifice of a burden which the British taxpayer would be only too glad to be without, there can be no doubt, after the breath-bated declarations of secresy in the public interest with which Ministers have been fobbing off the House of Commons, that it was highly indecent to reserve for a hole-and-corner party meeting the grandiose announcement that "they might rest assured the country would not be given up to the Boers." "Given up" to the Boers, indeed! If only Lord Salisbury would take a trip to South Africa!

"If they desired company," said Mr. Balfour last night of the fellow-members whom he puts in prison, "let them exercise, as they had a right to do, with the other prisoners." "Pickpockets!" cried out an hon. member. "Yes," retorted Mr. Balfour, "he drew no distinction." Mr. Balfour knows perfectly well that he does draw a distinction, and that this bit of bravado was no less mendacious than it was insolent. Otherwise why do not he and his colleagues take logical measures against the "condemned criminals" of the Commission Report?

Yet another by-election—owing this time to the sudden death of Mr. Swetenham, Q.C. The Carnarvon district, for which Mr. Swetenham sat, should, beyond all question, be now won back by the Liberals. Until 1886 the district had enjoyed a clean Liberal record for more than a generation. In 1885 the Liberal majority was 65. In 1886 this became a Tory majority of 136. To go back to "as in 1885" is the very least that can be required of this part of Gallant Little Wales. The vacancy at Windsor which we announced as pending some time ago will now occur almost immediately. The Royal borough has for many years been a Tory preserve, but, as the majority in 1885 was only 465, a good fight should now be made.

The Speaker might have used even stronger language than he did last night in describing as "discreditable" the condition of the House of Commons on Wednesday afternoons. Nominally the House meets at noon every Wednesday, and at that hour the Speaker does in fact enter the House with all solemnity, preceded by the Mace and followed by the Chaplain. But no business can be done until forty members have assembled, and no count-out is permitted till four o'clock. Consequently the Speaker and the clerks at the table, and the Serjeant-at-Arms, and the few members who have dropped in are all kept waiting in absolute idleness, often for a full hour, until a quorum is formed. The Speaker did not last night suggest any specific remedy, but he hinted that perhaps members would take more trouble to make a House if a count-out were possible earlier in the day. Probably this would lead to some improvement, but the whole subject of private members' rights needs to be dealt with on broad lines. What is everybody's business is nobody's business, and the unorganized supporters of a number of disconnected Bills cannot be relied upon to turn up in sufficient force to make a House.

SOME MINOR PICTURE SHOWS.

VON UHDE AND LIEBERMANN AT THE FRENCH GALLERY.

THE collection of works by these two celebrated German artists forms one of the most attractive exhibitions we have ever seen at the French Gallery, where for many a year certain phases of Continental art have been adequately represented. Both these painters, who have hardly yet reached middle life, have fought their way rapidly to the front, and made their names known throughout Europe by their success at the Paris Exhibition, where they each of them carried off a *grand prix*. Von Uhde served through the Franco-Prussian war, and not till some time later did he take seriously to art. A good deal of an ascetic, whose love of peasant life and of nature has equalled his profound belief in religion generally, and in the chief episodes of the life of Christ in particular, the artist has assumed the position of a revivalist preacher in paint and canvas. His technique is the technique of the modern impressionist, no less accomplished than his human sympathy is profound and his observation keen; but it is his whole-hearted faith in Christianity and his conviction that the elementary incidents in its history are as true at the present day as they were nineteen hundred years ago that constitutes the secret of his success. When a man can, without the shadow of affectation, and without a suggestion of incongruity, represent the "Last Supper" being eaten in the midst of latter-day Saxons, or "Suffer Little Children to Come unto Me," as a scene in a modern communal schoolroom, with stove and looking-glass and sanded floor; or, again, "The Sermon on the Mount," addressed to an earnest crowd of Bavarian peasantry—then we are bound to admit that we have here before us an artist not so much of originality as of individuality and of striking power, who, while satisfying the demands of art, makes us feel the reality of the subjects he depicts, and brings home to the Christian beholder the truths that he utters. But it is not only out of these large canvases that Herr von Uhde speaks to us, but from many a smaller frame—several of which some of our readers had the opportunity of studying last year in Paris—that he proclaims the skill of his brushwork, the truth of his observation, and the brilliancy of his execution. Such works are "A Sudden Shower" and "Gleaners," which amply show to what advantage he has combined the teaching of the Dutch, French, and Munich schools. Herr Liebermann, endowed with perhaps superior powers as a painter, proclaims no "mission," and works without a "purpose" other than that of the figure and landscape-painter. "Women mending Nets," "Drying Linen on the Dunes," "The Garden of the Maison des Invalides, Amsterdam," and "Flax Spinners," are pictures of extraordinary vigour; their excellence of drawing and colour, of atmospheric quality, impress the spectator at once with the individuality of the painter. For the rest, the average merit of the collection is maintained, Herr Seiler, Professor Müller, and Herr Walther Firle contributing the most striking works.

ENGLISH AND FOREIGN ROMANTICISTS.

The large collection of easel-pictures now on view at the Dowdeswell Gallery includes the works of some artists not as well known in England as they should be. Hervier is strongly represented by a variety of works, both finished pictures and studies. He was an unequal painter of occasionally remarkable achievement, as is well proved by the collection under notice. The quality of his "Harbour Scene" (68) is altogether delightful; the same may be said of the "Landscape" (75), and "The Village" (77), but the larger "Landscape" (76) is spoiled by the poor drawing of the trees. Signor Segantini's works, which were lately seen in Paris, as well as at the Spanish Exhibition, grow upon the spectator in an extraordinary manner—their very eccentricity is based upon the truer principles of English pre-Raphaelitism and of the French *luministes*, yet are carried out in a manner all the painter's own. These pictures—pastoral scenes, chiefly, of the Italian Alps—are of altogether peculiar interest, utterly unconventional and novel in manner, which challenge the respectful attention of every student of art, not so much by their clever audacity as by the earnestness and plausibility of the methods employed to secure certain results, such as bright flesh-tints and dazzling sunlight. Of the other artists, Gustave Courbet, Michel, and Mr. Muhrman are the best represented, while among our own painters, Mr. Robert Noble, the promising young Scotchman, and Mr. Swan, display their talents in small but effective exhibits.

"BRADSHAW."

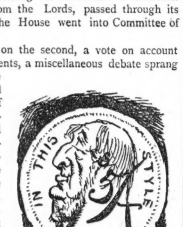
"The Story of Bradshaw's Guide." (Field and Tuer.) The circulation of the *Times* may be falling off and Governments may come and go, but, until the perfection of aërial navigation, the sale of "Bradshaw's Railway Guide," the most humorous (as we know from Mr. Burnand) and yet the most serious of the monthly magazines, must go on increasing. It is, in fact, an indispensable "Review of Reviews," the "Reviews" being those incomprehensible penny guides of the railway companies, which, by-the-by, when they are particularly confused, as in the case of the Southern companies, are increased in price to twopence. The kindly authors of "Bradshaw" apply their marvellous intellect to the elucidation of these publications, and are good enough to retail to us the result of their Herculean labour at the low price of sixpence. An account of such wonderful men and deeds might have been the theme for a most interesting book: the work to be treated of being unquestionably as difficult as codifying a criminal code. It is doubtful if the author of the little book before us had quite the qualification for the task. He tells us, indeed, that the originator of the scheme was one G. Bradshaw, a Quaker engraver living in Manchester in the year 1835, who was helped by Telford, and whose life was devoted to excellent work in aiding the Anti-Corn Law League and the Peace Society, and who also advocated ocean penny postage: but he does not tell us enough about the book as it stands, nor appreciate the Quaker humour which shines in its pages. We may incidentally remark that even to-day on the cover the date is 3rd mo. (March), 1890, a curious survival of Quaker origin; but space fails us to point out the jokes that need elucidation—the Irish railway which is shown half a mile longer in one direction than the other, the Welsh station at which "*some* trains stop when required," or the five Sunday trains which pass the Midland station of Dam'em—though they stop at all other stations, nor dozens of other interesting points. Nor, again, is the sad deterioration of the maps, plans, and gradient tables, which formed so excellent a feature in the Manchester engraver's first publication in the 'forties, treated of at all. G. Bradshaw's spirit might rise in horror at the present Bradshaw map, recently altered by the addition of a cerulean sea. An author, too, who writes about railways ought to have some acquaintance with the commonest technical railway word used for "connection" of trains at junctions is "correspondence." Altogether we think that, though this volume contains many interesting facts, the real history of "Bradshaw's Guide" remains yet to be written, for, as the Staffordshire proverb runs, "What one has not yet said one has yet got for to say."

A VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT.

IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS YESTERDAY.

THERE was a full House at question time yesterday, and it looked like business, but appearances are deceptive. The Irish members had the usual string of questions on the paper, and Mr. Cobb, aided by Mr. Labouchere, tried to elicit from the Home Secretary further information with regard to the finances of the late lamented Richard Pigott. By a question addressed to the Speaker, Sir William Plowden called attention to the scandal of Wednesday sittings, owing to the difficulty of forming a House. In a tone of dignified remonstrance the Speaker complained of the discredit which attached to the spectacle presented by the House every Wednesday from twelve to one, and hoped that some means might be devised for increasing the attendance of members. The Crown Office Bill came down from the Lords, passed through its remaining stages without opposition, and the House went into Committee of Supply.

One vote was quickly disposed of, but on the second, a vote on account of the Civil Service and Revenue Departments, a miscellaneous debate sprang up, and lasted the greater part of the evening. Captain Verney opened the ball by calling attention to the condition of Holyhead Harbour. Professor Bryce followed with a speech on City Parochial Charities. Several London members, notably Mr. Lawson, took part in the discussion on this subject, and on the kindred subject of technical education. The next subject brought up was that of coinage, in which both front benches took part. Two grievances were discussed — light gold and heavy silver. Mr. Goschen regretted that the light sovereigns did not come in as quickly as he had hoped, but defended the new silver coins because of their artistic merits. Sir William Harcourt, amid general applause, expressed the opinion that if the jubilee coins could only be defended on the plea that they were works of art it would be better for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to abandon their defence altogether. Mr. Causton quoted numerous instances of mistakes being made between the double florin and the crown, and urged that one or the other of these coins should be withdrawn. Hastily passing to another subject, Mr. Cremer wanted to know why he was not allowed to take his friends to see the pictures in the Buckingham Chamber, and to explore the curiosities of the crypt. Mr. Plunket having briefly replied, Mr. John O'Connor rose to his full length and opened a speech on Irish prison administration with the significant remark that he would like to see the Chief Secretary in his place. The House, which had been gradually growing thinner, emptied still more with the prospect of another Irish debate, and when Dr. Tanner rose to continue the discussion there was only a bare dozen of members present. Dr. Tanner's speech was, however, full of important matter, treated in a genial and amusing manner, worthy of a larger audience. Many of his facts were drawn from his personal experience in various Irish gaols, some of them very quaintly described. Even Mr. W. H. Smith could scarce forbear to smile when Dr. Tanner mentioned incidentally that "he had been confined in the female hospital at Clonmel Gaol." And the mirth grew still more general when the burly doctor offered in explanation to tell the House "how it all happened." Mr. William Redmond followed, and protested against the charge that the Irish members wasted the time of the House. "Would there be no protests raised by English and Scotch members if English and Scotch editors were imprisoned by the dozen?" While the hon. member was speaking Mr. Balfour left the House. "Never mind: I will wait till he comes back and say what I have to say." And so he did. Mr. Balfour, in reply, urged that even Ministers of the Crown must dine, and pointed out that the hon. member's own party did not seem very anxious to listen to his eloquence, for during the course of his long speech only three or four Irish members were present. The right hon. gentleman reasserted his determination to make no distinction between political and other prisoners. He also declared that the average health of prisoners of all classes was higher in Ireland than in England. During his speech Mr. Balfour was repeatedly interrupted by angry exclamations from the Irish benches. The chairman protested more than once, and Dr. Tanner, with a broad smile on his face, frequently called his excited comrades to order. Mr. Balfour was followed by Sir W. Harcourt, who, amid uproarious cheers from the Irish benches, proceeded to read the Chief Secretary "a lesson in courtesy." It was the Chief Secretary's duty, he said, to answer the charges brought against his administration, not to lecture the Irish members for bringing these charges. Mr. Balfour replied with considerable heat. He would, he said, try for the future to frame his parliamentary manner on the model set up by Sir Wilham Harcourt. He repeated that the Nationalists had no right to complain of the police, because they treated the police with equal cruelty. "Two wrongs don't make one right," called out Dr. Tanner. More Irish speeches followed, Dr. Clarke in vain trying to turn the attention of the House to the Scotch crofters. Just on the stroke of twelve the speeches ceased and the vote was taken. A long list of orders of the day had still to be taken, and Dr. Tanner, in "the interests of public morality," blocked every bill not otherwise opposed. The Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment Bill was, however, allowed to pass its second reading, amid general cheers.

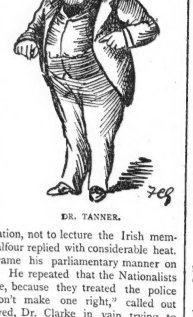


AS IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.


MR. JOHN O'CONNER.

"Why can't I take my friends to see the Pictures?"


MR. CREMER.


DR. TANNER.

"Long John": To be continued in our next.

READERS LEAVING HOME TEMPORARILY can have the PALL MALL GAZETTE forwarded at the following rates:—Two weeks, 1s. 6d.; four weeks, 3s. SATURDAY'S SPECIAL EDITION posted in time for delivery in the COUNTRY on SUNDAY MORNING, forwarded 1s. 8d. per annum. Address, The Publisher, *Pall Mall Gazette* Office, Northumberland-street, Strand, W.C.

HOW THE FRENCH ARRANGE THEIR TRADE DISPUTES.

THE institution which perhaps most impressed the workmen's delegates from this country who attended the Paris Exhibition last year was the French Councils of Prud'hommes, which are local boards elected for the settlement of disputes between master and workmen as to wages, contracts, or other matters of contention. Although limited in their operations, their practical utility commended them to the English workmen, and they regarded the idea of transplantation with favour. It would appear that the French are disposed to return the compliment by constituting boards of arbitration on the English model, so that the whole field of labour disputes may be covered. The subject is at present on the point of being dealt with by the French Legislature, two bills brought in by M. Lockroy being under the consideration of a Committee of the Chamber of Deputies.

We learn from a report from the English Legation in Paris on the Councils of Prud'hommes that they date from 1806, when a council was formed for the district of Lyons, and their functions have been successively enlarged and revised by a series of statutes. It is their duty, if possible, to terminate the disputes brought before them by a friendly arrangement between the parties, and failing this to pronounce judgment. They are created, at the request of the local Chamber of Commerce, by a Government decree. Only such trades are subject to these bodies as are concerned in the transformation of materials, such as manufacturers, carpenters, and masons, while shopkeepers, merchants, and clerks lie without. Mines and railways are also excluded, but there is a movement to extend the functions of the institution to all trades and industries indiscriminately. Masters and workmen are equally represented, each body electing their own Prud'hommes. The officers are elected by the council, and if the president is an employer the vice-president must be a workman. Prud'hommes are generally paid a salary at the expense of the commune over which their jurisdiction extends. One-half of the council retires every three years, but the outgoing members are re-eligible. They deal with differences arising out of the contract, written or implied, into which the workman has entered with his employer, and there is no appeal from their decisions in cases involving £8 and under. Over £8 an appeal lies to the Tribunal of Commerce. Prud'hommes have no voice in the settlement of strikes, not being concerned with the fairness or unfairness of wages. About 75 per cent. of the cases submitted to their judgment are on the subject of wages, 10 per cent. relate to absences from work, and three per cent. to defective workmanship. Questions of apprenticeship, valuation, piecework, and delay in finishing a job, are also brought before them from time to time. The council sits two or three times a week for conciliation and once a week for judgment. As the Prud'hommes are practical men, most cases are settled in a few minutes, and appeals to the commercial tribunals are rare. The 136 councils established throughout France deal with some 42,000 cases a year.

Under M. Lockroy's bills all industries in which manual labour is employed and all trades are brought within the competency of the Prud'hommes; their summary jurisdiction is extended from £8 to £20, with an appeal, over that amount, to the general assembly of the council, instead of to the Tribunal of Commerce; their elections are assimilated to those of municipal councillors, in point of suffrage and eligibility; and their procedure is in some respects still further simplified. It has not been thought possible to make them arbiters of strikes; but M. Lockroy is submitting a separate bill on this important subject, providing for the constitution of boards of arbitration on the English model. The only danger suggested is that the election of the Prud'hommes will be controlled by political wire-pullers when the franchise is extended, and that they will enter upon their functions hampered by pledges to support their class in every case regardless of its real merits. As this has not been the experience hitherto, it need not be assumed that the institution will split upon that rock.

The Ladies' Corner.

HINTS ON HOUSEHOLD TASTE.

People who have only a little ready money to spend on furnishing should (writes a correspondent) look out for old furniture. Here is a specimen of dining-room furnishing which the writer has effected. The sideboard is a good bit of mahogany, of the Sheraton type, with inlaid shell, &c.: it cost £3 3*s.*, and was bought in Leicester. The chairs are good Chippendale specimens of the wheatsheaf pattern: they cost 5*s.* each, and came from Yorkshire. The seats have been re-covered with velvet, but if money had been an object, the original horsehair would have served its purpose for some years. There is a Chippendale mahogany card-table of excellent shape and colour, which cost 35*s.* It makes a side table. A circular eighteenth-century oak table with leaves makes a carving table. The mahogany dumb-waiter of two stages cost 15*s.* A good eighteenth-century mirror, re-gilt and with eagle, cost 25*s.* There are besides Chippendale glasses of sorts, all picked up for small sums, but for these the economical could wait. The fender is brass, with much enrichment, price 12*s.*, and its brass poker, &c., were bought for 6*s.* The dinner table in use till lately was a large oval Jacobean one of oak, which cost £2. There is a fine arm chair with ears bought at a sale for 15*s.*, and covered with printed cotton velvet, at an additional cost of £2. The total reaches £13 10*s.*, and the owner feels he has good value for his money. Carpets and curtains run into money. Felt always looks well, but unless it is dull drab it wants a housemaid. Jute velvet makes admirable and inexpensive curtains. It is heavy enough to hang well, and it is very superior to thin serges. Simple iron curtain rods can be made by a blacksmith from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*, and the fixing to the window architrave is very easy. They look much better than cornice mouldings with coarse profile.

It is rather shocking to think that servants are expected to do without furniture. A dressing-table costs 5*s.*, a washstand and crockery can be had for 15*s.*, and a chest of drawers for £1; a few pictures from the illustrated papers will make their walls bright. Apart from higher considerations it pays to make servants comfortable. India matting always looks well on a floor, but it wants a few spots of decent colour. Two sovereigns spent on a respectable rug will produce more effect than the same sum wasted on several objects of the sort made of brittle wool and with no wear in them.

I saw in Regent-street yesterday a capital set of blue and white Oriental china ornaments for 18*s.* 6*d.* They would not satisfy a critic, but the colour is good, and they would give no offence to the fastidious. There is such a demand for Imari ware now that it is getting very coarse. I have a pair of vases in that ware, bought three years ago at Southsea. Their colour and execution is delicate to a degree, and they are admirable samples of really artistic work for 3*s.* 6*d.* I looked over a great stock in Knightsbridge recently, but I could find nothing like them; but nevertheless, quite pretty things may be had of the sort, and the price of each object will only run into pence.

Avoid rubbish, flimsy chair-backs with ribbon bows, three-legged stools, diminutive china menageries, stupid bits of drapery and suspended plates. Don't buy big looking-glasses. If your paper is bad, buy a few Indian printed stuffs and hang them up. Keep your family photographs in boxes.

TO-DAY'S NEW BOOKS.

[Publishers would greatly oblige by stating the prices of books. Any notices under this head do not preclude further review should such seem to be necessary.]

CARMARTHEN, KATE. "A Lover of the Beautiful: a Study." (Macmillan and Co.)
[One vol. Cloth. Pp. 252.]

FOSTER, BAYNTON. "A Queen of Roses." (Ward and Downey.)
[Cloth. Pp. 262. A story in one volume.]

KIPLING, RUDYARD. "Departmental Ditties; and Other Verses." (W. Thacker and Co.)
[A fourth edition, with additional poems. Cloth. Pp. 122.]

MACCOLL, MALCOLM, M.A. "The Ober-Ammergau Passion Play: with some Introductory Remarks on the Origin and Development of Miracle Plays." (Rivingtons.)
[Seventh edition. Cloth. Pp. ix., 98. Price 3*s.* 6*d.*]

PETERS, CHARLES (Editor). "How to Make Common Things: a Handy Book for Girls." (Religious Tract Society.)
[Cloth. Pp. 128. Price not stated.]

Bord's Pianos.—25 per cent. discount for cash, or 15*s.* per month (Second-hand 10*s.* 6*d.* per month) on the three years' system. Illustrated List free of CHAS. STILES and CO., 42, SOUTHAMPTON-ROW, HOLBORN, W.C. Pianos exchanged.

Publishers' Announcements.

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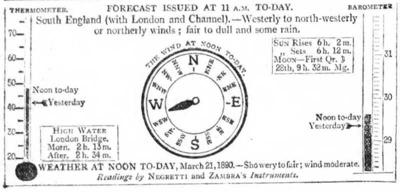
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FOURTH EDITION.

CANADIAN AND AMERICAN TRADE RELATIONS.

RESOLUTION OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

The Foreign Relations Committee of the United States House of Representatives (says Dalziel) has to-day voted unanimously in favour of a resolution declaring that whenever it is duly certified to the President of the United States that the Dominion Government have declared their desire to enter into such arrangements with the United States as would result in the complete removal of all duties on articles of commerce between the two countries he (the President of the United States) shall appoint three commissioners to meet commissioners representing the Dominion of Canada, in order to consider the best method of extending their trade relations, and ascertain the terms upon which an agreement can be arrived at.

THE TZAR AND THE NIHILISTS.

Dalziel's St. Petersburg correspondent telegraphs:—The Tzar has decided not to go to Gatschina, the fortress at which he held Court after the murder of his father by the Nihilists, as investigation proves that Mdme. Zebrikow and her friends are opposed to the Nihilistic mode of reform. The Tzar and Tzarina mingle more than ever with the people of the capital, and are daily visitors to the theatres, concerts, and other places of amusement, probably to counteract the assertion that Mdme. Zebrikow's letter has made an impression.

LABOUR RIOTS NEAR BERLIN.

Serious disturbances occurred yesterday evening and the night before at Koepenick, near Berlin, in connection with some workmen's meetings held there. The gendarmes were compelled to intervene, and two of their number were severely injured by the rioters. Adequate measures have been taken for the preservation of order.—*Reuter.*

TRAGIC RESULT OF AN INDIAN QUARREL.

A desperate affray occurred yesterday (a New York telegram to Reuter says) at the Standing Rock Agency. Two Indians, who were rival suitors of an Indian girl, quarrelled, and one of them after shooting and wounding the girl killed his rival and then shot himself by the camp fire, into which he fell and was burned to a cinder.

A PLANTATION OF SUGAR CANES BURNED.

A Reuter's telegram from Havana says:—A fire occurred at the Central Constantia Plantation of Cenfuegos, by which three million arrobes of sugar cane have been destroyed.

THE DANGERS OF ELECTRIC WIRES.

Another equine-electrical tragedy occurred to-day in New York. A horse attached to a commission agent's wagon slipped, and its forelegs fell into a manhole, where they came in contact with an electric wire, the next second the horse was dead. The driver who went to its rescue was thrown violently to the ground and his scalp injured.—*Dalziel.*

GREAT FIRE AT THE PULLMAN CAR WORKS.

A Dalziel telegram states that £16,000 worth of stock and materials was burned yesterday by a fire at the Pullman Railroad Car Works, Chicago. The loss was fully covered by insurance.

BOYCOTTING THE CELESTIALS IN THE STATES.

War has been declared against the Chinese laundries in the United States. A campaign fund of half a million dollars is said to have been subscribed by the steam laundries and by the German, French, and Irish washerwomen of the city, and every endeavour will be made to induce all hotels and public institutions to boycott the Celestials.—*Dalziel.*

A FAITH CURE IN NEW YORK.

Ida Benedict, who has been totally blind since last October, rose—so says Dalziel—in her seat at the meeting last night of the "Christian New Yorkers," and declared that her sight had suddenly been restored to her. It was very certain that the woman was able to see, and the assemblage fell on their knees and gave thanks for a miracle procured through faith.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has fixed St. Mark's Day for the consecration of the Rev. A. R. Tucker to the Bishopric of Eastern Equatorial Africa, and the Rev. Dr. Noel Hodges to the see of Travancore and Cochin.

THE REFORM OF LONDON GOVERNMENT.

A LADIES' CONFERENCE AT THE NATIONAL LIBERAL CLUB.

A conference of the Women's Liberal Associations of London, to continue through the day, was opened at the National Liberal Club this morning. Mrs. Charles McLaren, in her opening remarks as president, referred to the well-known advice that "women should deal with home affairs." The critical, she said, would no doubt be glad to learn that that was precisely what the Conference was going to do.

Professor Stuart, M.P., then read a paper on the "Housing of the Working Classes." The present law, he said, was very complicated, and it was to be hoped that legislation would take place during the present session. The funds made necessary by his bill should not be exacted from the ordinary taxpayer. In order to acquire absolutely insanitary property for the housing of the poor, to pull down and secure the erection of better buildings, at least three times the proper and real value of the property had to be paid. In all cases the "value" was high, when it was considered that, for every sovereign too much paid, somebody must be burdened in perpetuity for what was afterwards done with the property. The ratepayers, or the fund raised for the purpose, had to suffer, or the people who lived in the houses had to pay an increased rent. As the cost of the acquisition of the original property (including the ground value) was not in many cases more than the cost of the buildings newly erected, it would be seen what an enormous influence a doubling or a tripling of the first of those items must have upon the rent. Too much attention was paid by arbitrators to the actual rental and not to the rental which would be received if the houses were neither overcrowded nor insanitary. They proposed to deal with such things by special clauses in the bill, which the Professor then proceeded to analyze. There were not to be two sets of costs, nor more than one skilled witness, while no costs were to exceed £200—subject to the discretion of a judge. The question of "betterment" was also dealt with. The ladies present, among whom were Lady Sandhurst, Miss Cons, and many other well-known public workers, applauded with ladylike vigour from time to time.

THE EMPEROR'S LETTERS TO BISMARCK.

A DUKEDOM FOR THE EX-CHANCELLOR.

An extraordinary edition of the official *Reichsanzeiger* was published at nine o'clock last evening containing the following documents:—

My dear Prince,—With deep emotion, I have seen from your request of the 18th inst. that you are resolved to retire from the offices which you have held with incomparable success for so many years past. I had hoped not to be forced to meet the idea of our separation during our lifetime. If, however, I, fully conscious of the immense purport of your resignation, am now obliged to accept this idea, I do so with a sad heart, but with the firm hope that the granting of your request will contribute to save and to preserve, for the longest possible time, your life and your strength, so invaluable to the Fatherland.

The reasons adduced by you for your decision have convinced me that further attempts to induce you to withdraw your request are hopeless. I therefore concede your request by graciously accepting herewith your resignation of your offices as Imperial Chancellor, President of my Ministry of State, and Minister of Foreign Affairs, with the hope that your advice and energy, your fidelity and loyalty, will not be lacking to me and the Fatherland in future.

I have considered it one of the most favourable dispensations of my life that, on ascending the Throne, I had you as my first adviser by my side.

What you have done and attained for Prussia and Germany, what you have been to my House, my ancestors, and myself, will remain in my grateful and imperishable memory, and in that of the German nation; while your wise and energetic peace policy, which I am resolved, in accordance with my firm conviction, to maintain in the future also, will permanently and gloriously be remembered abroad.

It is not in my power to reward your services according to their full value. I must, therefore, be satisfied at assuring you of my never-ending thanks and of those of the Fatherland. I bestow on you the dignity of a Duke of Lauenburg as a sign of these thanks, and I shall send you my life-size portrait.

May God bless you, my dear Prince, and give you still many years of a cloudless life, enlightened by the conviction of loyally-fulfilled duty. In this sense, I remain your thankful Emperor and King, faithfully connected with you also in the future,

Berlin, March 20, 1890. WILHELM, I.R.

My dear Prince,—I cannot see you leave the office in which you have done so much for my House and for the greatness and welfare of the Fatherland during so many years, without most gratefully acknowledging your imperishable services to my army. With far-seeing circumspection and iron firmness, you stood by the side of my late grandfather when at a momentous time, it was imperative to effect the necessary reorganization of our army.

You have co-operated in smoothing the road by which the Army, with God's help, was to be led from victory to victory. You did your duty as a soldier during the great wars with gallant heroism, and ever since then till the present day you have been ready, with never-tiring care and sacrifice, to preserve to our nation the power of defence inherited from our ancestors, and thus to create a guarantee for the maintenance of the benefits of peace.

I know that I am at one with my Army in wishing to see the man who had done such great things preserved to it in the highest rank. I, therefore, appoint you Colonel-General of the Army, with the rank of a Field Marshal, and I hope that, with God's help, you will be preserved to me in this capacity for many years to come.

Berlin, March 20, 1890. WILHELM.

To Prince Bismarck, General of Cavalry, &c.

These documents were, the *Standard* correspondent says, specially conveyed to the new Duke of Lauenburg by the Chiefs of the Military and Civil Cabinets at about five o'clock last evening. It is a strange coincidence that the new Duke has borne the princely title just nineteen years yesterday, having been created Prince Bismarck on the 21st of March, 1871, on the opening of the first German Reichstag; and, as his eldest son will probably succeed him as Duke of Lauenburg, there will have been only one Prince Bismarck.

To-day's Berlin papers reproduce the Emperor's letters to Prince Bismarck without comment.—*Exchange.*

BISMARCK AND THE LABOUR QUESTION.

In an article in this evening's *North German Gazette*, emanating beyond all doubt (the *Times* correspondent says) from the Imperial Chancellery, it is denied that the resignation of Prince Bismarck has anything to do with the labour question, and in proof of his assertion the writer goes on to explain the attitude of the Chancellor to the various phases of the economic policy of the Imperial Government, which has, so far, reached its culmination in the International Labour Conference now sitting in the Radziwill Palace. Far from not having always been in agreement with this economic policy, it was Prince Bismarck himself, says the writer, and the revelation is an interesting one, who drew up and persuaded the old Emperor to adopt the programme of social reform that was placed before the Reichstag in the celebrated Imperial message of November 17, 1881, a fact which entitles the Prince to be regarded as the intellectual author and creator of all the economic legislation done since then. Moreover, it was he who, when discussing in the Reichstag the labourer protection question in 1885, suggested that the matter ought to form the subject of international inquiry, and he it was who proposed to the young Emperor the holding of the present conference in Berlin, as well as the summoning of the State Council. The correspondent adds that the difference of opinion between the young Monarch and the old Minister "mainly" referred to constitutional questions of Ministerial responsibility, especially the official relations of the Minister President to the rest of his colleagues in the Cabinet.

THE LIVERPOOL DOCK STRIKE NEARING A CLOSE.

Yesterday was one of the quietest days passed since the strike of dock labourers commenced at Liverpool. There were no parades through the town, but a mass meeting was held at the south end of the town. The speakers were again Mr. Cuninghame Graham, M.P., and Mr. McHugh and Mr. McKeown. The speeches were remarkable for their conciliatory tone. The general feeling of the men seemed to be in favour of the steps which the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce is taking for bringing about a settlement of the dispute. The fact is that on Wednesday it was particularly apparent at the docks that matters were getting into their former state, a result which is being brought about, not only by the great number of men imported, but also by the old hands resuming work, many of the latter secretly going in, and this, it is believed, will soon bring the strike to an end.

A relief gang of labourers was sent away from Dover this morning to Liverpool Docks.

THE AFFAIRS OF SIR JAMES KIRKPATRICK.

To-day an application was made to Mr. Registrar Brougham to confirm the scheme of arrangement agreed to by the creditors of Sir James Kirkpatrick, of Closeburn, Dumfries, a clerk in the Admiralty. The failure took place in November, the gross liabilities being returned at £11,361 5s. 3d., of which £654 19s. 3d. is unsecured and assets unascertained. The proposal made to the meeting was to provide a sum of £250 for distribution among the creditors, the costs, charges, and expenses also being provided. The Official Receiver reported that, having regard to the fact that there were no available assets, the debtor having been suspended from his appointment, the proposal was calculated to benefit the creditors. His honour ordered the scheme to be confirmed.

While Mr. Gladstone is averse to the idea of an autumn meeting of Parliament, he thinks that it will be possible so to arrange matters as to render it unnecessary for Parliament to sit into August.

GREAT FORGERY OF SPANISH BONDS.

THE ACCUSED AT THE MANSION HOUSE COURT.

To-day at the Mansion House, Edward Varrone, forty-three, described as a merchant, was brought before the Lord Mayor on a warrant charging him with having in January, February, and March, in the City of London, unlawfully conspired with one Justo Martos, by false pretences, to obtain from the Deutsche Bank divers large sums of money, with intent to defraud.

Mr. Michael Abrahams, solicitor, appeared for the prosecution; Mr. Goldberg, solicitor, for the defence.

Mr. Abrahams, in opening the case, said the prosecution had been instituted by the Deutsche Bank, the Crédit Lyonnais, the Société Génerale, and other foreign banks who had been the victims of a most ingenious and audacious forgery of Spanish Four per Cent. Exterior Debt Bonds. The forgery had been carried out in the most dexterous manner, the whole of the bonds—and even the English stamp upon them—being forged, and the forgers had even been bold enough to negotiate them in Spain. The forgery was primarily attributed to one Justo Martos, who had absconded. Martos in October last took an office in the City, and got into the confidence of the prosecutors by getting them to buy bonds for him. After a time he reversed these operations and sent to the bankers various bonds for sale. These bonds were the forged ones in question, and the banks had been victimized to the extent of £23,000. The charge against the prisoner was that of having conspired with Martos to effect the forgery, with having uttered the forged bonds and received the proceeds, and with actually obtaining some of the money from the prosecutors.

The information on which the warrant was obtained was read.

Mr. R. W. Basserman, a clerk in the London branch of the Deutsche Bank, at 4, Lombard-street, said they received from Justo Martos, who described himself as a stock and share dealer at 10 and 11, Clement's-lane in the last three months bonds of the Exterior Debt of Spain now produced, and on the faith of their being genuine they paid him £1,480, which he paid into his account at the London and South Western Bank (Stockwell Branch). They discovered on the 8th inst. that the whole of the bonds were forged. Martos had since absconded.

Mr. N. E. Jauralde, the financial delegate in London of the Spanish Government, said he had ascertained that Martos since November last had sent out in registered envelopes to various bankers in France forged Spanish bonds, to the extent of upwards of £20,000, for which he had received the money and since absconded. He produced some of the bonds.

Detective-sergeant Tayler said he had ascertained that a large number of the bank-notes received by Justo Martos in respect of the cheques had been traced to the prisoner, who had been interrogated with respect to them. He (the prisoner) stated that in December last he casually made Martos's acquaintance at Cook's Tourist Office, and that he asked him to change for him English banknotes into foreign, which he did to the amount of £10,000, charging him commission. Since Martos had absconded, two packets containing twenty-one forged bonds had been addressed to the prisoner. He produced the envelopes containing the bonds. A note was contained in one of the packets with instructions what to do with the bonds. Martos took the offices in Clement's-lane in November, and the prisoner had an office at 42, Old Broad-street, in the name of Walker. On February 17 the prisoner insured bonds for £2,000, and on February 27 further bonds for £2,000, these being forgeries. He also attempted to effect a policy for £5,000 on other bonds about to be sent to the Continent, but he was unable to complete it as Martos was then absconding. It appeared from the correspondence that Martos had sold bonds to the Credit Lyonnais, Société Génerale, and other bankers in France, the Deutsche Bank at Berlin, Messrs. Corrons of Valencia, and others in various countries. These bonds had been insured in transit either by Martos or the prisoner. Witness had taken possession of Martos's cheque-book, and found that many of the cheques were payable to the prisoner. He also discovered that the prisoner had from the proceeds arising from the bonds bought foreign drafts from English money-changers.

Mr. W. J. Trapp, said he was engaged by Martos as his clerk in November last, and remained with him till March 4, when he absconded. The only business he did was to write letters to foreign bankers enclosing Spanish bonds.

At this stage the Lord Mayor remanded the prisoner for a week.

THE ALLEGED PARRICIDE AT CREWE.

TRIAL OF THE BROTHERS DAVIES.

At ten o'clock to-day Mr. Justice Wills took his seat in the Crown Court, Chester, for the resumed trial of Richard Davies and George Davies, indicted for the murder of their father at Hough, near Crewe, on the night of the 25th of January last. The assize hall was again crowded with ticket holders. Several members of the family of the murdered man were conducted to a seat immediately behind the bar, and were the objects of painful interest to the large number of onlookers who filled the gallery, boxes, and approaches to the well of the court. Mr. A. P. Roberts and Mr. Colt Williams again prosecuted; Mr. H. Glascodine defended, and Mr. Malcolm Douglas represented the younger prisoner George.

After some evidence of minor importance had been taken, Mr. Roberts addressed the jury for the Crown. He admitted that the deceased was not the man he should have been, either as husband or father, but though this might have been a motive, it was no excuse. The great mass of evidence might be considered as proof against both the accused men. Richard's written statement was a confession of the crime, and if the prisoners were acting with a common intent, no matter which struck the blow, they were both equally guilty.

THE GREAT STRIKE IN THE COAL TRADE.

AN AGREEMENT ARRIVED AT.

The conference of owners and colliers met yesterday as arranged, but, as it was stated, both sides wished the proceedings to be private, and therefore journalists were not admitted. We learn, however, that after a long discussion it was decided that the men resume work at once, that an advance of 5 per cent. be given now, and a further advance of 5 per cent. the first week in August. The resolution was agreed to unanimously. The Conference also agreed upon the principle which is to regulate wages questions in the future.

The news of the settlement was received with great satisfaction, both in the mining and manufacturing districts. Some more mills were obliged to stop yesterday for want of fuel. The colliers will not resume work generally until Monday; but preparations were made yesterday in several districts to descend the mines to-day. At a pit in the Accrington district the miners resumed work yesterday, the town crier summoning the men. Considering its duration, the late strike eclipses all its predecessors, for in a few days the whole trade of the district has been paralyzed. In Burnley half the mills in the borough are stopped, and there has been a good deal of complaining among the 12,000 or 14,000 people who have been out of work through no fault of their own.

This morning nearly two thousand miners in the Ashton-under-Lyne district resumed work at the advance agreed upon yesterday.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LABOUR CONFERENCE

The work of the Labour Conference is proceeding with unexpected rapidity and success. The Sunday Work Committee has as good as finished its labours. It has arrived at a compromise, advising that rest on Church holidays shall be made obligatory only for women, young persons, and children. The Children's Labour Committee has resolved to recommend that it shall be forbidden to employ school children except in certain defined cases. The other resolutions which the Conference has to take are likely to bear an equally close resemblance to those of the Prussian State Council. The ballet, not the opera, "Sardanapalus" was performed last evening in honour of the Conference. The Emperor took the whole of the places in the theatre.

A GENERAL THROWN FROM HIS HORSE AND KILLED.

General Koch, Commander of the Sixty-first Division of French Infantry, while out riding yesterday morning in the neighbourhood of Montpelier, was thrown from his horse and killed on the spot. He distinguished himself in the Crimean war, during which he obtained promotion from the grade of sub-lieutenant to that of captain. During the Franco-Prussian war he gained the rank of major, and after being promoted to colonel in 1882 was made general in 1889.

CHAPMAN AND HALL (LIMITED).

The ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of this company was held yesterday at the office, 11, Henrietta-street, Covent-garden, Mr. James Bird (chairman) presiding. The meeting was private. The report stated that the gross profits on the trading for the year were £13,746 4s. 3d. The expenses were £6,457 11s., leaving, with the balance of £71 9s. 6d. brought forward, £7,360 2s. 9d. to be dealt with. The directors recommended a dividend of 7 per cent. on the preference shares and 6 per cent. on the ordinary.

THE FORGED LETTERS

THE GOVERNMENT MAY GRANT A COMMITTEE.

People who are generally well informed appear to be of opinion (writes the London correspondent of the *Birmingham Daily Post*) that when Mr. Parnell moves, according to intention, for a Select Committee to inquire into the alleged connection of the Government with the *Times* concerning the Special Commission and the history of the forged letters, it is not improbable that Mr. Smith, on behalf of the Cabinet, will consent to the appointment of such a body, and that Ministers will place every facility in the way of ensuring a complete investigation of the whole matter from beginning to end.

The London correspondent of the *Sheffield Independent* has the highest authority for stating that Mr. Parnell has made no arrangements in the matter of the motion, and will not do so until he has had an interview with Mr. Gladstone, which has been arranged to take place to-morrow. "While there is in Liberal circles a disposition to support Mr. Parnell in his endeavour to clear up this affair, there is a decided feeling that the initiative should rest with him on the general question of the attack on members of the House of Commons. Mr. Gladstone took upon himself the duty of moving a resolution designed to do him justice, but on this particular issue of the forged letters it is the Irish members who are principally and personally concerned, and if it is decided to move in the matter they will take the arrangements upon themselves."

ARRIVAL OF THE PRINCE OF WALES IN BERLIN.

The Prince of Wales, accompanied by Prince George, arrived in Berlin at ten o'clock this morning, and was received at the railway station by the Emperor, the Princes of the reigning German families now in Berlin, and the Empress Frederick with her daughters. A guard of honour, furnished by the 2nd Regiment of the Guard was drawn up on the platform, the band playing "God save the Queen" on the arrival of the Royal train. The reception of their Royal Highnesses, and the procession to the Castle were strictly in conformity with the predetermined arrangements. The Prince of Wales drove in a carriage with the Emperor, escorted by a squadron of the Cuirassiers of the Guard, headed by their trumpeters, and a similar escort attended the carriage occupied by Prince George. The cortège passed through the Brandenburg Gate, and then along Unter den Linden to the Schloss, where there was a great military display, and the fullest honours were rendered to the illustrious guests.—*Reuter.*

OUTRAGE BY ARABS IN TUNIS.

An outrage has been committed at Tunis by a band of Arabs, who attacked a railway watchman and stabbed him in twenty different places. The unfortunate man is, however, still alive.—*Reuter.*

COMMUTATION OF THE GIRL MAPP'S SENTENCE.

The Exchange Telegraph Company is informed that the Home Secretary has commuted the death sentence on Elizabeth Mapp to penal servitude. With regard to a reduction of this sentence Mr. Matthews declines to make any promise beyond an assurance that the case shall be reconsidered before the expiry of five years.

A NEW BRAZILIAN IRONCLAD.

The new Brazilian ironclad, *Tamandare*, was (a Reuter's telegram from Rio de Janeiro says) successfully launched to-day in presence of the Provisional President of the Republic, several of the Ministers, a number of members of the foreign diplomatic and consular body, and many other official personages.

THE MONUMENT TO MAZZINI.

At yesterday's sitting of the Chamber of Deputies the motion for defraying the cost of the proposed monument to Mazzini was passed by acclamation, all the Deputies rising when the vote was taken. Signor Crispi made a speech warmly eulogising the dead patriot, who he declared, had always been the apostle of Italian unity, which, said the Premier, is of very much greater importance than the mere form of government. Other Deputies, and notably Signor Nicotera, expressed themselves in similar terms.

FOREIGN VESSELS UNDER THE LOAD-LINE LAW.

The London correspondent of the *Liverpool Courier* is authorized to state that the President of the Board of Trade has agreed to the amendment of the Load-line Bill in such a manner as to include foreign vessels. Under its operation such vessels, therefore, where they trade into the ports of the United Kingdom, will be placed on an equal footing with native ships as regards the adoption of compulsory load lines."

JUMPING FROM LONDON BRIDGE IN A SACK.

At three o'clock this morning a fish-porter named Fuller jumped off London Bridge at high tide, fastened up in a sack, for a bet. On reaching the water he cut his way out of the sack, and getting clear swam ashore. Owing to the early hour and the secrecy observed there were few spectators.

AN EXCEPTIONAL EXECUTION IN AMERICA.

A white man was hanged at Grenada yesterday for the murder of a negro. Great efforts were made to get a commutation of the sentence from the Governor, but in vain. This is a most remarkable execution, inasmuch as it is the first instance in Mississippi in which a white man has been executed for murdering a negro. The Governor's action in seeing the law upheld is generally praised.

DEATH OF DR. RUTHERFORD OF NEWCASTLE.

Dr. Rutherford, who for about forty years has been prominently identified with religious, educational, temperance, and other movements in Newcastle, died in that city this morning. After officiating at a funeral on Wednesday he was seized with paralysis, and never recovered consciousness. Dr. Rutherford devised a scheme for raising H.M.S. *Vanguard* in 1875, but the plan was not carried into execution. The deceased was about seventy years of age.

THE WAR OFFICE AND VOLUNTEER EQUIPMENT.

The Exchange Telegraph Company says it is understood that the War Office authorities do not intend, at any rate this year, to take up the subject of the supply of volunteer equipment in accordance with the motion of Sir Edward Hamley, carried in the House of Commons last week. It is thought that the effect of the decision arrived at by Parliament, by which volunteer equipment should be provided by the State, and the debts of volunteer corps arising from the purchase of the same should be liquidated by the War Office, will cause considerable alteration in the system and policy of the administration of volunteer corps and the constitution on which the force was originally formed. The order of the Commander-in-Chief, issued last May, regarding the efficiency of corps being dependent on the production of certain articles of equipment is practically rescinded on the subject being taken up by the Government. It is understood that volunteer corps will be directed to purchase articles from the Ordnance Store Department on prepayment, a custom which has not been the case hitherto, and that not only will volunteer financial accounts be subjected to closer supervision and inspection under regulations of a more stringent nature, but that the force will be called upon to train itself to a higher standard of military efficiency.

A COTTON MILL ON FIRE.

A fire occurred this morning at the Bower Cotton Mill, Oldham, by which three spinning rooms were completely burnt out. The damage done is estimated at three thousand pounds.

DR. WESTCOTT'S CANONRY.

It is in contemplation to abolish the canonry at Westminster, at present held by Dr. Westcott, the Bishop-Designate of Durham, with the object of providing funds for the new *campo santo* at Westminster Abbey. The canonry is not yet vacant, and therefore no definite steps have been taken, but the assent of the Crown will not be withheld if the original scheme is to be promoted without further delay. As already stated, the canonry is nominally worth £1,000 a year, with a house. It was practically a sinecure, only two months of residence being necessary, which meant, at most, nine Sunday afternoon sermons.

THE BELL-COX APPEAL.

Owing to the death of Lord Fitzgerald, one of the law lords who heard the appeal of the Rev. J. Bell-Cox, of Liverpool, it has been ordered that the arguments in this matter shall be taken *de novo* in the House of Lords, and the case will come on soon after Easter. The point raised is whether the rev. gentleman was legally lodged in prison under an order of Lord Penzance.

Mr. Gladstone has given a sitting to Mr. A. E. Emslie for a picture of a meeting at the Earl of Aberdeen's, at Haddo, N.B.

M. JULES SIMON AND THE GERMAN EMPEROR.

WHAT SHALL BE DONE WITH ALSACE-LORRAINE?

The news arrived in Paris on Wednesday that M. Simon had been decorated by the Emperor with the Order of the Red Eagle, and some importance is attached to this circumstance in Ministerial circles. It is even whispered that M. Simon managed to bring the question of Alsace-Lorraine on the tapis in the course of a long and cordial conversation with the Emperor; that he deprecated the consideration of so delicate a theme, the right moment not having yet come; but that the Emperor replied that it was never too early to discuss a question which concerned the mutual relations between Germany and France. Great faith is placed in Paris (writes the *Morning Post's* correspondent) in the diplomatic capabilities of M. Jules Simon, whose winning manner is supposed to be exercising a most favourable influence on the youthful Emperor. It is believed that the Government is sufficiently well disposed towards any possible scheme of a reconciliation which would include a settlement of the Alsace-Lorraine question, either by the neutralization of this territory (in accordance with the Socialist theory), or its annexation to Switzerland. A diplomatic triumph of this character would, it is hoped, aid in the final extermination of Boulangism, which is again beginning to cause anxiety, for it is almost certain that the approaching municipal elections in Paris will prove favourable to the Boulangists. The young Emperor has long cherished an admiration for M. Jules Simon, with whose works he is familiar, and his Majesty was personally pleased at the selection of M. Simon to be chief of the delegation, and intended to give him some high decoration as a mark of his esteem. M. Simon is a philosopher, and the urbane tone of his philosophy accords well with the young Emperor's temperament; but, if a discussion on Alsace-Lorraine took place, it must have been strictly philosophical in kind.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO AIX-LES-BAINS.

During the forthcoming visit of the Queen to Aix-les-Bains Lord Lytton will be in attendance upon her Majesty, the duties of the Embassy in Paris being taken over for the time being by the first secretary. Dom Pedro, the late Emperor of Brazil, will make Aix-les-Bains his residence during a portion of the time her Majesty will be at the Villa Victoria, and among other Royal visitors to the famous health resort during the summer months will be the Empress Frederick of Germany and her daughters. It is expected that the latter will accompany the Queen on her return to England, and after a few months' stay again proceed abroad.

AN EXTRAORDINARY TEST FOR CANADIAN LEGISLATORS.

In Wednesday's sitting of the Dominion House of Commons (states a Dalziel's telegram from Ottawa) a bill, obliging members before taking their seats to take an oath that they will not be guilty of corrupt practices, and will honestly and faithfully perform their duties, was read a second time, and then referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

A "FRENCH MARQUIS" AND AN AMERICAN POLITICIAN.

A French marquis—who turned out to be a *chef*—has just succeeded in imposing on Mr. McEnery, the ex-Governor of Louisiana, to the extent of obtaining introductions to that gentleman's family and friends, and getting cashed two worthless drafts, one for £400.—*Dalziel.*

THE TRAFALGAR SQUARE PRISONER.

Sir Charles Russell and Mr. Causton had an interview with the Home Secretary, at the House of Commons last evening, for the purpose of presenting a petition, signed by all the London Liberal members and an equal number of Conservative members representing metropolitan constituencies, praying for the remission of the remainder of the sentence on George Harrison. Mr. Matthews promised to give the matter his most careful consideration.

THE BISHOPRIC OF SYDNEY.

A new candidate is in the field for the bishopric of Sydney. High Churchmen have hitherto been quite out of the running, but the name of Canon A. B. Donaldson, Precentor of Truro, has, the London correspondent of the *Leeds Mercury* says, now been put forward on their behalf. Canon Donaldson has powerful friends in Australia, and may find supporters in the contest for the Australian primacy.

HONOUR TO SIR JOSEPH LISTER.

In Rome the magnificent Policlinico Umberto I., or great medical and surgical hospital and school now slowly rising to completion, is to have its two principal façades ornamented with bas-reliefs in honour of the two men who, in the judgment of our Italian brethren, have conferred the most signal benefits on the sister branches of the healing art. Medicine is to be represented by the pioneer of pathology as it is now studied and taught, Giovanni Battista Morgagni of Padua; surgery by the author of the antiseptic system, Sir Joseph Lister.—*Lancet.*

SIR THOMAS PHILLIPS'S MANUSCRIPTS.

The splendid manuscripts which Sir Thomas Phillips succeeded in collecting have been purchased by the University of Cambridge for the sum of £5,000. The Dutch and Belgian Governments ad already purchased the portions of the 33,000 manuscripts which bore specially on those countries. The Bodleian, British Museum, and Cambridge University authorities bid for the residue, and Cambridge has carried off the honours of the "peaceful strife."

THE EASTER MANŒUVRES.—DOVER ABANDONED.

It was stated at the War Office yesterday that the military authorities have now finally abandoned the idea of holding the principal Easter Volunteer Manœuvres at Dover. Colonel Stracey and the officers in charge of the arrangements are now engaged in perfecting the plans for assembling and manœuvring the troops in the vicinity of Folkestone. The mayor of Dover last night issued a circular stating that he had been informed by General Montgomery Moore that the marching column, under Colonel Stracey, will not proceed to Dover, but that there will be some operations near Sandling on Easter Monday. These will be confined to volunteers, and it is not proposed that any of the regular troops shall take part in them. Under these circumstances the subscriptions for a compensation fund will be returned.

AN ADMIRABLE INSTITUTION.

If there is one form of our hospital system which is least liable to abuse and most deserving of support it is surely that which combines the benevolent and the provident features. The Hampstead Home Hospital and Nursing Institute was founded in 1881, to provide, as far as possible, for those who, in case of illness, are unable to have suitable accommodation and attention in their own homes, and who, not desiring to go to a public hospital, are willing to pay for themselves, so far as their means allow. The majority of the patients admitted are unable to pay more than 7*s.* or 10*s.* per week. The hospital contains twenty beds, which are constantly in use; and is open to all qualified medical practitioners who attend their own patients. The Nursing Institute attached to the hospital is self-supporting. At present the work of the hospital is much crippled by a mortgage and other liabilities, which entail a charge upon the funds of over £150 per annum.

In order to pay off these liabilities a festival dinner was held last night at the Hôtel Métropole. The Lord Mayor, who, as a resident in Hampstead, has a special interest in the institution, took the chair, and he was supported by the sheriffs, Lord Knutsford, another resident in Hampstead, Mr. Brodie Hoare, the member for the borough, and other gentlemen. The hon. secretary, Mr. R. H. Owthwaite, was enabled to announce subscriptions to the amount of over £1,200.

DUEL BETWEEN PARISIAN JOURNALISTS.

A duel was fought yesterday in the vicinity of Paris between M. Lavertujon, a deputy and *rédacteur en chef* of the *Petit Centre* newspaper, and M. George Sogler, former *rédacteur en chef* of the *Rapide du Centre* newspaper. M. Sogler was seriously wounded between the ribs. Upon the advice of the physicians, the seconds stopped the duel from proceeding further.—*Dalziel.*

Mr. G. R. Sims denies the statement that he keeps a "ghost."

Mr. Hinton, a prominent member of the Croydon corporation, expired suddenly this morning from heart disease and bronchitis. Deceased was a member of the firm of Hinton and White, wholesale merchants in the city.

The London Chamber of Commerce has been asked by the Kentish Bargemen's Protection Society to consider the best means of settling the dispute with the brickmakers, and the Chamber has consented to act in the matter.

A pleasant conversazione was given at the Conduit-street Galleries last evening by the Society of Cyclists, when their guests were received by Dr. B. W. Richardson and his brethren of the wheel. An excellent concert, diversified by recitations, was contributed to by Miss Barnard, Mr. E. Homan, Miss Ferrari, Mr. Hirwen Jones, Mr. Tarle Lee, Mr. Charles Ganz, Mr. H. Sullivan, and Mr. Emil Behnke. Some specimens of a new photographic process, called "Tonographs," were exhibited by Messrs. Mayall.

THE MONEY MARKET.

One o'clock.

HOME RAILWAYS FIRM.—FOREIGN STOCKS STEADY.—AMERICANS MOSTLY BETTER.—QUIET BUSINESS.

The general quotation for three months' bank paper is still 3 per cent., and there is little disposition on the part of brokers to take in bills at less. Short money is again wanted in connection with the tenders for the new Queensland Loan, and the charge is 3 to 3¼ per cent. The condition of the Berlin exchange is causing some amount of anxiety, it having fallen to a point which would admit of the profitable shipment of gold from this side, but it is not generally anticipated that the Bank of England will be called upon to supply much gold for that quarter.

A better tendency is observable in most departments of the Stock Exchange, but there is little improvement in the volume of business. Consols are a trifle harder, the quotation for the account showing an advance of 1-16, while in the Home Railway department there is an all-round recovery, owing to the settlement of the dispute in the coal trade. The principal rise is in the stocks of the heavy lines, but the whole market presents a decidedly stronger appearance. In the Foreign Market there has been a demand for Turkish low-priced descriptions, more especially groups 1 and 2; but in other directions little has been done. The premium on gold at Buenos Ayres continues to wobble about, the latest telegraphic advices reporting it as having relapsed to 154½ per cent. The movements in American Railways are slight, but there is a better tone, and most of the changes are favourable to operators for the rise. Trunks and Mexican Railway issues too have been bought, and are higher. Mines and Miscellaneous securities at the moment are quiet.

Berlin was in a more assured frame yesterday, and Paris and London followed suit. The prices of international securities are slightly better, with the exception of Argentine. The arrangement of the coal strike influenced Home Railways, and higher prices were quoted after official hours. United States Railroad shares are also better on the day. South African gold shares shared in the more hopeful feeling, but no recovery of moment occurred.

The tenders for the issue of £1,150,000 Cape of Good Hope Consolidated Three and a Half per Cent. Stock, amounted to £1,522,100, at prices varying from the minimum of £100 to £103. Tenders at £100 will receive about 12 per cent. of the amount applied for, and those above that price in full. The average price obtained for the stock is £100 3*s.* 3*d.*

The letters of allotment in the British and American Trustee and Finance Corporation (Limited) have been posted.

The gross receipts of the 23 principal railways in the United Kingdom for the week ending March 16 amounted to £1,230,162, an increase of £40,954, or 3·4 per cent.

The available net profits of the Cunard Steamship Company for the past year amounted to £175,469, including £2,699 brought forward. After adding £54,000 to the Company's Insurance Fund, and £20,000 to the Boiler Fund, it is proposed to pay a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and carry forward £4,938.

DIVIDENDS.—Foreign, American, and General Investments Trust Company, at the rate of 9 per cent on Deferred stock for the half-year, making a total distribution of 7 per cent. for the year; American Investment Trust Company, at the rate of 9 per cent. for half-year, making a total distribution of 7 per cent. for the year; and New Guston Company, 2*s.* per share for the quarter.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.—The market opened quiet with a small demand. Probable sales 6,000 bales. Prices on the spot opened at three points rise.

The following are the latest changes compared with yesterday's closing:—

HOME RAILWAYS.—*Higher*: Great Western ⅞, Midland ⅜, North Western and North Eastern ½ each, Brighton Deferred ⅜, Chatham Preference, Metropolitan, North British Deferred, and South Eastern Deferred ¼ each, and Sheffield Deferred ⅛. *Receded*: Caledonian ⅛.

FOREIGN STOCKS.—*Advanced*: Turkish Group 2 ⅜, Group 1 ½, and Egyptian Daira ⅛. *Declined*: Egyptian Unified 1-16.

AMERICAN RAILROADS.—*Risen*: Milwaukee, and Louisville and Nashville shares ¼, Ohio and Mississippi and Wabash Preference ¼, and Denver Ordinary ⅛. *Fallen*: Lake Shore, New York Central, Atlantic Firsts, Pennsylvania, and Union Pacific shares ¼, Wabash Mortgage ½, Central Pacific, Ontario, Norfolk and Western Preference, and Reading shares ⅛ each.

CANADIAN AND FOREIGN RAILWAYS.—*Higher*: Mexican Ordinary, First, and Second Preference ½ each, Grand Trunk First and Second Preference ¼, and Canadian Pacific ⅛. *Lower*: Lombardo Venetian 1-16.

MINES AND MISCELLANEOUS.—*Improved*: Oceana Land ⅛, De Beers and Gold Fields of South Africa 1-16.

The following are this day's 1 o'clock prices of the principal Stocks and Shares:—

BRITISH FUNDS, ETC.		
Consols (2¾) Money	97	⅛
Do. Account	97 3/16	5/16
Do. 1905	93	½
New 2½ per Cents.	94½	5
Local Loans Stock	102¼	¾
India 3½ per Cents.	107¼	¾
Do. 4½ p. c. Rc.	71¼	½xd
Egyptian Guar. ..	100	1
Bk. of England St.	330	3 xd
Met. Bd. Wks. 3½ p.c.	111¼	¾
Do. 3 p. ct. Scrip	101¾	2¼
Birmgham 3½ p. c.	110	11
Leeds 4 per cent. ..	115	17
Liverpool 3½ p. c.	112	½
Manchester 4 p. c.	126	8
COLONIAL SECURITIES.		
Canada 4 p. c. Reg.	107	9
Canada 3 p. c. Reg.	95½	6½
Cape 4 p c Cons Ins	109½	10½
Ceylon 4 p. c. Ins.	110½	11½
Mauritius 4 p c Ins.	107	8
Natal 4 p. c. C1937	109	10
N.S Wales Ins 1933	112	14
„ 3½ 1924....	101½	2½
NewZlnd 4 p.c. Cons.	107½	8½
Queenslnd 4 p.c. Ins.	109½	10½
S. Austln. 4 p.c. Reg.	107	8 xd
Victoria 4 p.c. of 1885	111½	12½
W. Austrlia 4 p.c. Ins.	108	10
FOREIGN STOCKS.		
Argentn 4½ p.c. 1888	75	6
Do. 3½ p.c. Extn.	58½	9½
Do. Cedulas A ..	39½	40½
Do. „ B....	38½	9½
Austrian Gold	93	5
„ Silver..	73	5
Brazilian 4½ 1888..	86	7
Do. 1889 (fully pd)	76¼	¾
Do. „ (partly pd)	12	11 dis
B. Ayres 6 p.c. 1883	93	100
„ Cedulas "I"	31½	1½
„ „ "J	29½	30½
Bulgarian	89½	90½
Chilian 4½ pc. 1889	102	4
Costa Rica A......	90	2
„ „ B......	87	9
Ecuador, New	24	½
Egypt. State Dom.	103¾	4¼
Do. Unified	94⅛	¼
Egypt. Preference	104⅞	5⅛
Do. Daira Sanieh	84	¼
French 3 p.c. Rentes	87½	8
Do. 4½ p.c. Rentes	104½	5
Greek 5 p. c. 1881-4	89¼	¾
Do. 4 p. c. Mon.	74¼	¾
Hung. Gold Rentes	85⅝	⅞
Italian	91	¼
Mexican 6 p.c. 1888.	95	½
Peruvian 5 p. c. 1872	16⅞	17
Do. 6 p. c.	20	⅛
Portuguese........	62⅝	⅞
Russian 4 p. c. 1889	93¾	4¼
Spanish 4 p. c.	73 3/16	5/16
Turkish, 1854......	102	4
Conv. A	40½	¾xd
Do. B	24¼	¾xd
Do. D	17¾	⅞xd
4½ p. c. 1871....	97	½
5 p. c. Defence ..	102¼	¾
5 p. c. Priority ..	95	7 xd
Uruguay Unified ..	72½	3
Do. 6 p. c. 1888 ..	85½	6
Virginia Funded ..	45	6
U.S. 4½ p. c.	105½	6½
BRITISH RAILWAYS.		
Brighton Ordinary	154	6
Do. A	150⅝	⅞
Chatham Ordinary	23	¼
Do. Preference	109	½
Caledonian	123	¼
Great Eastern	84⅝	⅞
Great Northern ..	121	3
Do. A	102	3

Great Western	161⅞	2⅛
Hull and Barnsley.	37	½
Lanc. and York. ..	120	1
North Western....	176¼	½
South Western	154	5
Manch. and Sheff..	36	8
Do. A	45⅜	⅝
Metro. Consolidated	75½	6
Do. District ..	29½	30
Midland	141¾	2¼
North Brit. Pref. ..	78⅜	⅝
Do. Def.	60⅜	⅝
North Eastern	164¼	5
North Stafford	110	12
South Eastern	129	31
Do. Deferred..	103⅛	⅜
Taff Vale	75	8
FOREIGN RAILWAYS.		
Canada Pacific....	74⅜	⅝
Cen. Pacific Shares	32½	3
Chic. Mil. and St. P!	70¼	½
Denver & R. Grande	15⅜	⅝
Do. Preference	46¾	7¼
Illinois Shares	117½	18½
Lake Shore	109¾	10¼
Louis & Nash	86⅜	⅝
Miss. Kan. & Texas	10	½
N.Y. Central Shares	110¼	¾
New York Ontario	18	¼
N. Y. Erie Shares	25⅞	6⅛
Do. Second Mort.	104	½
Norfolk & West. Pref	61¾	2¼
N.Y., P. & O. 1st M	33¼	¾
North Pacific Pref.	74	½xd
Ohio & Mississippi	20¾	1¼
Pennsylvania Sh...	55¼	¾
Phil & Read Sh. ..	20⅛	⅜
Union Pacific Sh ..	64	½
Wabash Preferred..	31¼	¾
Do. Gen. Mort.	50	1
Grand Trunk Ord..	10½	¾
Do. First Pref. ..	72⅜	⅝
Do. Second Pref.	49	¼
Do. Third Pref.	26⅞	7⅛
Do. Guaranted..	77	½
Mexican Ordinary	37⅝	⅞
Do. First Pref...	118½	19
Ob. do. 2nd Pref.	73½	4
Mexican Central ..	72½	3
Mexican National	54	6
Lombardo-Venetian	11	⅛
Nitrate Railway ..	15⅞	16⅛
Taltal	4½	5
B. Ayres & Rosario	158	62
Do. Great Southern	179	84
Central Argentine..	136	41
S. Paulo (Braz.) ..	44	6
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank	14½	15½
City Bank	23	4
Colonial	50	2
Consolidated Bank	8¼	¾
Imperial	19½	20½
Imperial Ottoman..	11¼	½
London and County	88	90
Lloyds............	27	8
Lon. and Westmtr.	70	1
London Joint Stock	40½	1½
Nat. Prov. of Eng.	56½	7½
Provincial of Ireland	24	5
Stnrd. Bk. of S. A.	54½	5½
Union of London ..	41½	2½
National Discount	11¼	¾
TRUSTS.		
Fn. & Cl. Gov. Df.	135	8
Gov. Stk. Invst. Df.	110	14
Lon. and N.Y. Inv.	6¾	7
Stock Conversion ..	1½	¾
South African Gold	2	¼
Trus., Ex., & Sec.	6	½
MINING & LAND.		
Indian Con. Gold	2/3	2/9
Mysore Gold	6	¼

Ooregum Gold	2⅛	¼
Cape Copper	3⅜	⅝
Namaqua	1⅞	2⅛
Mason & Barry....	6¼	⅜
Rio Tinto	15 11/16	13/16
Tharsis	4⅜	⅝
Montana	1⅛	¼
De Beers	16⅛	⅜
Griqualand West ..	5⅝	⅞
New Jagersfontein.	12	¼
City and Suburban.	5⅜	⅝
Jumper's Gold	6¼	¾
Jubilee............	4⅝	⅞
Robinson	2⅞	3⅛
Salisbury..........	4⅝	⅞
Sutherland Reef ..	3½	¾
S. Afcn. Explorata	18½	19
Do. New........	1⅜	½pm
G. F. of Sth. Africa	3⅞	4
Exploring Co.	15	16
Oceana Land......	8⅛	⅜
Southern Land	par	¼pm
Transvaal Land ..	⅜	⅝pm
TELEGRAPH & TELEPHONE		
Anglo-American ..	49	50
Do. Preferred ..	82½	3½
Brazilian Submarine	12½	¾
Direct United States	10⅛	⅜
Eastern	14	¼
Do. Extension ..	13¾	14¼
Globe Teleg. Trust	8⅝	⅞
National Telephone	5⅛	⅜
OMNIBUS AND TRAM		
Lon. Gen. Om.	175	85
London Road Car	5¼	¾
London Street	12	½
London Tramways.	14¾	15¼
North Metropolitan	18½	19
WATERWORKS.		
Chelsea Waterwks.	260	5
East London	209	14
Grand Junction....	122	6
Kent..............	271	6
Lambeth	254	8
New River, New ..	360	5
Sthwrk & V'xhall..	161	5
Tarapaca	9¼	¾
West Middlesex ..	260	5
GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHT		
Gaslight & Coke A	246	9
Imp. Continental ..	217	22
South Metropolitan	220	5
Do. B	224	8
Do. C	230	40
London Electric ..	2⅞	3⅛
Metrpltan Electric	5¾	6
MISCELLANEOUS		
Allsopp's..........	7⅛	⅜
Bell's Asbestos	12⅜	⅝
Guinness and Co...	342½	5
Hotchkiss	5⅛	⅜xd
Maxim-Nordenfelt.	1⅞	2⅛
Bryant and May ..	13⅜	⅝
Eastman's Ord	15⅝	⅞xd
Elmore's Copper, &c	6¼	½
Spratt's Patent	7⅜	⅝
Liverpool Nitrate..	11	13
Colorado Nitrate ..	3½	4
Primitiva Nitrate..	14¼	¾
Rosario	2½	3⅛
San Pablo	3½	4
San Jorge	5¾	6
San Donato	2¾	3¼
Tamarugal........	2	½
Salt Union Shares	11⅛	⅜xd
P. and O. Steam Def.	195	7
Royal Mail Steam	70	3
Hudson's Bay	19½	20
Suez Canal........	91	¼
E. & W. India Docks	16	18
Lon. & St. K. Dock	32	4

"Pall Mall Gazette" Office.

FRIDAY MORNING.

Lord Randolph's retort to the attacks of the *Standard*, as confided to a friendly interviewer, is characteristic, but hardly convincing. "I do not," says Lord Randolph, "regard the newspaper in question. Its political articles are written by a certain Alfred Austin, who is, I am told, a poet, and a rival of Lord Tennyson, and they are edited by one Mudford, an individual who for business purposes resides in Shoe-lane." Lord Randolph doth protest too much. His assurance that he "does not regard the newspaper" which he thus dissects is like the denunciations poured out by the artists on critics whom (they always begin by saying) they never read.

* * *

Is the crown to be abolished? The question is not so alarming as it sounds, for it is only one between the crown and the dollar. Mr. Goschen was understood last night to half promise to withdraw one coin or the other. If either is withdrawn it certainly ought to be the crown. When the florin was first introduced it was avowedly as a step towards decimal coinage, and the early florins bore upon them the legend, "One-tenth of a sovereign." We have not yet advanced much further towards decimal coinage, but there is no reason why we should take a retrograde step. If ever we take to reckoning in florins instead of shillings, as it is to be hoped we shall some day, we shall want a two-florin piece and not a two and a half florin piece, and therefore it is the crown that ought now to go.

* * *

Mr. Joseph Bell and his black bag have returned to town. Mr. Bell is the artist of the *Illustrated London News* who met Stanley at Zanzibar, and brought back with him the sketches which have appeared in the *News* "Special." Having completed this commission Mr. Bell accompanied Mr. Edward Marston to Cairo to arrange about the sketches which are to accompany Stanley's book describing his adventures. The black bag mentioned above contained a list of those sketches as long as Chang. The originals have not yet been distributed to the artists to work up, but M. Riou, the French artist, has undertaken a portion of them. The firm of Messrs. Sampson Low are now hard at work upon the book, and hold conferences daily. What a book it will be! and how the papers will race for an early copy! The Derby won't be in it.

* * *

After reading the announcement that the late Sir William Gull has left a fortune of £344,000 to his heirs, there can be little doubt as to the correct choice of a profession. Sir William began life without a penny, and I was told the other day by a medico who was his clerk at Guy's that he did not make his first guinea till he was forty. Up to that time Sir William —he was not Sir William then, of course—was content to live in that gloomy little street of St. Thomas's which runs out of the roaring, turbulent Borough-road, and is close to Guy's Hospital. To this very day this quaint byeway is beloved by the physicians and surgeons who lecture and demonstrate at Guy's. On the shining brass door-plates you may see inscribed names which are distinguished in the medical records, but have not yet been advertised to the world at large. After St. Thomas's-street, Harley, Brook, and the rest, you know.

* * *

Apropos of Sir William this same medico told me an amusing story illustrating the peculiar memory which the great physician had for small things. The medico in question being a smart young student, and given to sartorial embellishments of an eccentric order, used to wear a remarkable waistcoat all buttoned down before with lovely buttons of some jewel-like mineral, known only to the lapidaries. It was this young man's duty to read the list of cases in his ward to Dr. Gull, who used to toy these buttons with his fingers during the recitation. Fifteen years later the young man with the eccentric buttons had become a full-blown medico himself and had occasion to meet Dr. Gull for the first time since his Guy's days. After they had settled their business, Gull looked at him with his piercing eyes and, taking hold of his coat, said, "By the way,——, what has become of those waistcoat buttons?"

* * *

"So poor old Mr. Herbert is gone," writes a correspondent, "the oldest member, actual or retired, of the Royal Academy, two years the senior of Mr. Cope and three of Mr. Calder Marshall in point of election into the associate fold. I had an hour's chat with him at last year's private view of the Royal Academy, or rather he had an hour's talk all to himself, in that peculiar assumed French accent which caused Douglas Jerrold to say of him, 'Dreadful, isn't it? Herbert has been over to Boulogne for a fortnight—he fell down on the quay and broke his English.' Mr. Herbert was much put out at that, our last meeting, which he explained by taking me to the place where his picture was hung. 'It is not that I mind, my friend,' he said, evidently much annoyed, 'but for the sake of the poor Queen! Her Majesty will be so sorry when she hears of it.'"

* * *

"Turning to his hopes and fears of art, he declared that Art is an appreciation of the beautiful as a direct gift of the Almighty, and the sole end and aim of life. We must look at a picture as at a mirror—through, not at it, *comprenez-vous?* and see God the Maker in all art. You must spread this with your powerful pen, my dear friend—make it known," he continued, with his eyes firmly closed and his feet and knees together, "and let the people know that Leighton's creed would lead to universal vice and Watts's to an ignoring of God, *vous comprenez?* Very well; *très bien.* And listen: Alma Tadema is false in lighting, so that through his pictures he makes himself a living lie, a flying in the face of Providence!" "But surely," I ventured to interpose, "an artist may take poetic licence with light for the purpose of artistic effect?" "Lies, all lies!" cried Mr. Herbert. "Rembrandt, he was a strong beast with a great hoof, but not taper fingers; his lighting was as false as Holl's, and all of them, all downright rubbish, which would not stand a test from optical laws. Spread this, make this known, and make your pen to live. It would be better for the nations were all 'Old Masters' burnt from Moscow to Madrid."

* * *

"And the living masters?" I inquired, with half a smile, which was not seen, however, by reason of the old gentleman keeping his eyes firmly shut. "Not one good living artist," he answered, with a severe, inflexible tone in his voice. "*Pas un seul.*" "And at the beginning of the *Renaissance?*" I suggested, hoping to gain some approval from him. "Their pictures are painted in an angular manner," he answered fiercely. "No respect for the beautiful or reverence for its Maker. They did this by reason of mere fashion, and for no other reason."

* * *

The cynical Mr. Hollingshead has been publishing a little collection of his letters and articles—a first instalment, perhaps, of his autobiography. The serious pages of this little book deal with the music-halls in more or less flippant parts; but a few curious particulars on other subjects may be noticed. Charles Dickens's recipe for gin punch, for instance, has a pleasant fragrance about it, though how the master ever wrote anything but nightmary stories on baked leg of mutton with the bone taken out, distended with oysters from Rule's, and veal stuffing, I cannot for the life of me imagine. Mr. Hollingshead hints in a mysterious way that Mr. Edmund Yates was a partaker of these unholy banquets. Mr. Yates knows better now. The other great master, Master Thackeray, liked nothing better, it seems, than a solid mutton chop and a baked potato at midnight. "And what better meat can there be?" as he himself once asked, though on that occasion, if I remember rightly, it was a leg:—

> A nice leg of mutton, my Lucy,
> I pray thee have ready at three,
> Have it smoking and tender and juicy,
> And what better meat can there be?

* * *

But this is pure discursiveness. I see, by the way, that Mr. Hollingshead says the only way to get a good baked potato in these degenerate days is to buy from the baked-potato merchant of the pavement. Is not Mr. H. quite right? *Mes compliments*, as Mr. Whistler has it, to that poor but honest vendor. His goods are real "mealy 'uns," and none of your hotel and restaurant dried-up-in-a-furnace pachydermatous tubers, which have been baking for hours. But this is a subject teeming with controversial possibilities, from which this column should be sacred. The book is published by Chatto and Windus.

REFORMS IN ARMY AND NAVY ADMINISTRATION

REPORT OF LORD HARTINGTON'S COMMISSION.

The morning papers publish at great length the Reports of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the civil and professional administration of the naval and military departments, and the relation of those departments to each other and to the Treasury, which have been issued as a Blue-book The first Report deals with the measures required to ensure full and sufficient administrative harmony between the two departments, and also with the internal administration of the Admiralty. The second deals with the internal administration of the War Office; while the relations between the two departments and the Treasury are reserved for subsequent treatment. Lord Randolph Churchill's dissentient memo is also given. The alterations in Whitehall are to be slight, if the report is acted on. Those in Pall-mall are much more thorough. The Commandership-in-Chief is to be abolished, and a Chief of the Staff appointed with Adjutant-General and Quartermaster-General and other officers, forming, with the Parliamentary and Permanent Secretaries and the Financial Secretary, a War Office Council; the Director of Artillery to be a member, to be directly responsible for arms and ammunition to the Secretary of State. The command of the troops in Great Britain would thus be assimilated to that in Ireland, where executive duties are severed from administrative duties. The recommendations as to the administration of the Admiralty are summed up as follows:—1. Full recognition of the complete and individual responsibility to Parliament and the country of the Cabinet Minister at the head of that department for all matters connected with her Majesty's Navy. 2. Constitution of the office of the First Naval Lord as that of chief adviser of the First Lord in all great questions of naval policy. 3. Clear definition of the administrative duties of each of the remaining Lords and direct responsibility of each of them to the First Lord for his own duties. 4. The Board to be regarded as a standing council for naval affairs, but the existence of such council in no way to diminish the responsibility of the First Lord. The questions of the internal administration of the War Office, and of the relations of the Admiralty and War Office to the Treasury, will form the subject of a further report.

One of the most important paragraphs is as follows:—

"There might be some advantage in the formation of a Naval and Military Council, which should probably be presided over by the Prime Minister, and consist of the Parliamentary heads of the two services, and their principal professional advisers. In this council also possibly might be included one or two officers of great reputation or experience who might not happen to hold any official appointment in the Admiralty or War Office at the time. This council might meet in all cases before the Estimates of the year are decided upon by the Cabinet, so that the establishments proposed for each service should be discussed from the point of view of the other, and the relative importance of any proposed expenditure might be fully considered. It might also be summoned from time to time to consider and authoritatively decide upon unsettled questions between the two departments, or any matters of joint naval and military policy which in the opinion of the heads of the two services required discussion and decision. It would be essential to the usefulness of such a council and to the interests of the country that the proceedings and decisions should be duly recorded, instances having occurred in which Cabinet decisions have been differently understood by the two departments, and have become practically a dead letter."

LORD SALISBURY AND NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE.

Not the least striking fact concerning the Carlton conclave was that for the first time an official report of the proceedings was issued to the press. There was a time when Lord Salisbury appeared to believe it possible to exclude any authentic record of such meetings from the public journals; but Mr. Gladstone, who had once laboured under a similarly erroneous opinion, was constrained years ago to adopt a different attitude, and at the famous Foreign Office meeting on the Home Rule Bill, in May, 1886, first broke through the old official fiction. The present Premier had hesitated, however, until yesterday, and it was only after those really acquainted with the progressive journalistic enterprise of the time had impressed their views upon him that he consented (the London correspondent of the *Birmingham Daily Post* writes) on this occasion to allow an official and carefully-revised record of the proceedings to be made public.

MR. JESSE COLLINGS'S AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION BILL.

Mr. Collings's Agricultural Education Bill, which is down for second reading next Wednesday, but is not then likely to be reached, has been issued. It is "backed" by three Liberal Unionists (Mr. Collings, Sir John Lubbock, and Mr. Dixon), four Gladstonian Liberals (Mr. Henry Fowler, Mr. Howell, Sir Bernhard Samuelson, and Mr. Reid, Q.C.), and two Conservatives (Sir John Kennaway and Major Rasch). It is intended to provide for the teaching in public elementary schools of agricultural and horticultural subjects, and for the practical illustration and application of such teaching. In order to secure the continuation of instruction in these subjects for children in rural districts who leave school at an early age, and to give the like instruction to allotment holders and others of the rural population who need it, the bill provides for the establishment of continuation classes to be carried on in the evenings, Saturday afternoons, or at such other times as the school managers may deem most suitable to secure the object in view. As the one clause of that measure to which the Treasury, and therefore the Government, might have objected—that relating to the foundation of scholarships—has this time been omitted, no serious opposition (says the London correspondent of the *Birmingham Post*) should be feared.

DEATH OF THE HON. RICHARD MILNES.

The Hon. Richard Milnes, only son and heir of Lord Houghton, died on Thursday morning at Torquay, where the little invalid had been spending the winter under the care of his aunt, Lady Fitzgerald, and his grandmother, Lady Hermione Graham. Much sympathy will be felt for Lord Houghton, who is at present at Zanzibar, not being permitted by the doctors to return to the English climate.

IS CONVERTING THE HEATHEN A "CHARITABLE PURPOSE?"

The question, "Is converting the heathen a charitable purpose within the meaning of the exemption clause of the Income Tax Act?" is just now engaging the attention of six Lords of Appeal at Westminster. The issue arises in connection with the Moravian houses established in different parts of the country for the purpose of training teachers to go forth among the heathen to propagate the tenets of that faith. The contention of the Crown is that the words "charitable purposes" in the clause in question only exempt from income-tax money applied to purposes into which the relief of the poor enters. Some noteworthy and curious opinions were expressed yesterday by the noble and learned lords who are wrestling with the problem (says the *Manchester Examiner*). Lord Bramwell, for instance, gave it as his opinion that in the case of many so-called charities the more they were taxed and discouraged the better it would be for the general community. Lord Morris also expressed some doubt how far it was fair to the general body of taxpayers to exempt large sums of money applied to the propagation of particular tenets. Was, he asked, converting a heathen into a Moravian a charitable purpose? And he answered his own question by saying that in the opinion of a good many people he imagined the heathen would be much better left as he was. Their lordships hope to settle the question before the end of the week.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN AND THE LAND PURCHASE BILL.

The London correspondent of the *Leeds Mercury* is responsible for the statement that Mr. Chamberlain is assuring his friends that the Land Purchase Bill will be very satisfactory. No doubt he has seen the measure, but a scheme which is agreeable to Mr. Chamberlain may give great dissatisfaction to the country.

On dit that before leaving London for Paris yesterday, Lord Randolph sent a memorandum to Lord Salisbury.

The Committee of Council on Education has not yet finally revised the draft of the New Code, and it will not be circulated until the end of next week.

Sir Philip Currie gave a party last night at his house in Connaught-place, Hyde Park, which was largely attended by leading representatives of the diplomatic and official worlds.

The Easter recess will begin on Tuesday, the 1st of April, and close on Thursday, the 18th April. This arrangement is subject, of course, to the Tithe Bill being read a second time before Easter.

The *Dublin Express* (Conservative) announces that at the next vacancy Colonel James Corry Lowry, of Dungannon, will contest the representation of Dublin University as a candidate who neither holds Government office nor is likely to accept one.

Bord's Pianos.—25 per cent. discount for cash, or 15s. per month (Second-hand) 10s. 6d. per month) on the three years' system. Illustrated Lists free, of CHAS. STILES and CO., 42, SOUTHAMPTON-ROW, HOLBORN, W.C. Pianos exchanged.

"MISS TOMBOY."

THE NEW COMEDY AT THE VAUDEVILLE THEATRE.

Mr. Buchanan is doing too much. "Clarissa" has only been before the public a few weeks, and yet this most prolific of dramatists is to the fore with another eighteenth-century play. Under these circumstances it is hardly surprising to find the new comedy wanting to a great extent in many of those qualities which stamped "Sophia" as a striking reflection of the better portions of Fielding's masterpiece. Truth to tell, "Miss Tomboy," the three-act farce—it is hardly more—which Mr. Buchanan has evolved from some of the main characters and incidents of Sir John Vanbrugh's comedy, "The Relapse," is a poor and patchy piece of workmanship, with nothing whatever in it to heighten, or even maintain, the author's literary reputation. Of brilliant writing there is none; in fact, the dialogue throughout is very conventional, and often singularly bald and uninspired. All that is amusing in "Miss Tomboy" arises from the bare humours of Vanbrugh's underplot, which, as Mr. Buchanan tells us in an "author's note," he has relied upon as "the mainspring and *motif* of the present play." The story may be told in two words. Lord Foppington arranges with a male match-maker for an introduction to a country heiress—Miss Fanny Hoyden—with a view to marriage. His scapegrace brother, Tom, gets wind of the scheme and presents himself at the house of the young lady's father as his lordship. In this character he wins the affections of the wealthy girl and marries her just before the real Simon Pure exposes the plot. The whole of this somewhat discreditable conspiracy is carried on in a breezy farcical manner, which rather enlists our sympathies in favour of the dashing young impostor. The situation is never for a moment serious; in fact, incident follows incident much in the wildly irresponsible manner of a comic-opera libretto. Perhaps the new comedy may be said to be fitfully amusing in its weak way, but when it raises laughter it does so by some cut-and-dried stage device or some happy effort on the part of one of its interpreters rather than by any inherent wit in the author's lines.

The honours of the afternoon must certainly be awarded to Miss Winifred Emery, who, in the part of Fanny Hoyden, grasped most admirably a really great opportunity of showing her versatility. The character is no easy one to play and in the hands of many actresses it would have been intensely disagreeable. But Miss Emery fairly rose to the occasion. She was the warm-hearted wilful romp to the life, and her performance was all the better because it lacked the overdone extravagance which many artistes would have infused into it. On the other hand, Mr. Thomas Thorne quite failed to do justice to the character of Lord Foppington. The part is one that requires a vast amount of delicate and finished comedy, but Mr. Thorne rode rough-shod over its difficulties and merely presented a stage-portrait ordinary in conception and crude in colouring. Had the Lord Foppington been stronger the balance of the play would doubtless have been improved. As it was, the first act, which rests almost entirely on his shoulders, went for nothing. Mr. Frank Gillmore was an intelligent and spirited Tom Fashion; Mr. Fred Thorne, as Sir Tunbelly Clumsy, did well enough what he has done scores of times before; and Mr. Cyril Maude struggled hard to give distinction to the part of a scheming valet. In subsidiary characters Mr. J. S. Blythe, Miss Sylvia Hodson, and Miss Mary Collette were seen to advantage.

"PUBLIC SUPPING" AT CHRIST'S HOSPITAL.

The annual Public Supping at Christ's Hospital is one of the most picturesque of the survivals of Lenten ceremonies. With the exception of the singing of psalms and anthems by the school, and the admission of visitors, there is little to distinguish this ceremonial supping from the ordinary evening meal, and the boys do not seem to mind being stared at during feeding time any more than do the animals in the Zoological Gardens. The fare is of a frugal kind, consisting simply of a thick slice of bread, a pat of butter, and a big bowl of milk. Over seven hundred boys are seated on wooden benches at the long tables which fill the historic hall of the school, and each table is presided over by a mature matron of the ward that it represents, and waited upon by monitors who have previously enjoyed what is known among the "Bluecoats" as "a real tea." After supper the boys file out of the hall, each scholar in passing making his bow to the treasurer.

MAHOMMEDAN ACTIVITY AT DEMERARA.

The believers in the "True Prophet" (Mahomet) resident at Demerara have built for themselves a church or sewalla, wherein they may carry out their own form of worship.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND CONFIRMATION STATISTICS.

The Church of England's latest confirmation statistics for England and Wales show (writes the London correspondent of the *Manchester Examiner*) a continued and general progress in almost every diocese, and a considerable improvement in the total results. The number of persons confirmed has risen from 198,164 in 1884 to 225,776 in 1889. Taking the whole of England and Wales for the triennial period 1887-8-9, there was an annual average of 220,396 persons confirmed, or one confirmation for each 118 of the population. The province of Canterbury during the three years presented nine candidates out of every 1,000 of the population, whilst the province of York, with half the population, presented only seven out of every 1,000. Chester, Llandaff, Bangor, St. Davids, Southwell, Ripon (with Wakefield), Rochester, and Manchester, are the dioceses which have gained most ground during the three years under review.

ARRESTED FOR READING HERBERT SPENCER.

The other day, writes the St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Daily Graphic*, a student was arrested for possessing amongst his books the works of Herbert Spencer, which are regarded as subversive of order and prohibited. Darwin is also tabooed.

EUROPEAN VERSUS AFRICAN AMAZONS.

The St. Petersburg *Novosti* publishes a letter from a Russian lady inviting French and Russian ladies to join her in a crusade against the barbarians of Dahomey. She proposes to organize an army of Amazons, which, she has little doubt, will be able to cope successfully with the celebrated Amazons of the King of that country.

WHAT BARNUM LOST ON OLYMPIA.

At last we have the truth about Barnum's enterprise at Olympia (writes the London correspondent of the National Press Agency). It was a great financial failure. Mr. Barnum has himself confessed that he lost £10,000. He does not mind it, because he says the advertisement for America is worth the money. And to whom do you suppose he unbosomed himself? To Mr. Gladstone.

WOOD FROM MADAGASCAR.

The first consignment of wood from Madagascar has arrived in the London docks, and has excited not a little interest in the timber trade. The wood has been imported by the Madagascar Forests Company (Limited), which was formed about fifteen months ago, the capital, which is comparatively small, being raised privately. The chairman of the company is Mr. H. M. Bompas, Q.C., and the other directors are well-known commercial and professional men, including Mr. Samuel Procter, the Consul for Madagascar in this country. The company has the concession for a forest extending over 1,600 square miles. The first cargo imported comprises 190 tons of hard woods, which the experts declare are suited not only for furniture and purposes to which mahogany is applied, but also flooring and ship-building. One kind, of which the Madagascar name is arzovola, resembles walnut in colour and grain, and having a fine figure should be valuable for cabinet work. Fifty-seven tons have been received, and have already been sold at a good price. Samples of this and the other woods were shown yesterday afternoon at the Cannon-street Hotel, when the directors invited a number of gentlemen in the trade to examine them. Among these were Messrs. Churchill and Sim, Messrs. Godfrey, Saunders and Co., Seddon, Shepherd and Co., and Mr. Thomas Roe, M.P. The intention is to make regular consignments from Madagascar.

The Comtesse de Paris will arrive in Paris on Sunday night.—*Dalziel.*

Mr. John Ellis has blocked the Railway Shareholders' Licensing Sessions Bill.

Master Simon Goldstein is Bar-Mitzvah to-morrow, and is going to deliver a public address at the Talmud Torah Schools.

Sir George Balfour is on the sick list. The hon. and gallant gentleman has not been seen this session at all. He is now eighty-one.

Albert Franchetti, a grandson of Baron Rothschild, is a gifted composer. His new opera, "Asrael," was performed at the Stadt Theater, Hamburg, and was enthusiastically received.

Mrs. Oscar Beringer's adaptation of Mark Twain's "Prince and the Pauper" will be presented, under the management of Mr. Edwardes, at a series of matinées at the Gaiety Theatre, commencing during Easter week. Mr. W. H. Vernon will enact the rôle of Henry VIII.

Mr. J. C. Swinburne-Hanham writes:—"It seems by your excellent report of the meeting on Cremation at Brixton that I was not sufficiently careful in describing the ashes I exhibited. They are not human, but the remains of half a horse."

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"A BATCH OF BROWNING LETTERS."

IMPORTANT SALE OF MSS. AT SOTHEBY'S YESTERDAY.

The secret is out at last. The friendly critic to whom the late Mr. Robert Browning so considerately sent early proof-sheets of his poems, with explanatory letters, is Mr. George Barnett Smith. Extracts were made from the poet's letters in our columns the other day; Mr. Barnett Smith being everywhere referred to as "the critic." In one instance, we regret to say, we unwittingly did "the critic" an injustice. Our suggestion that Mr. Browning considered his reviewer's knowledge of Greek is not well founded. A translation of the "Agamemnon" of Æschylus was recommended merely to save time, and to demonstrate the fact that Browning's transcript was as close to the original as any "crib." This is clear from the letter itself, which, together with other letters, and the bound proof-sheets of various poems, was offered for sale at Messrs. Sotheby's rooms yesterday. They formed part of the Hayward collection—one of the most complete and important collections of MSS. which have come under the auctioneer's hammer in recent years.

In spite of its unique interest the sale was not largely attended. Two letters from Addison (1714 and 1709) made respectively £1 12s. and £4. An interesting letter from Atterbury (Bishop of Rochester) made £4 4s.; while two letters from Lord Beaconsfield—the one to Count Gleichen and the other to the late Abraham Hayward—made £2 12s. and £1 9s. Napoleon to the Empress Josephine fetched £25 10s. The Browning proof sheets and letters sold at the following prices:—

	£	s.	d.	
"Jocoseria"	20	0	0	Sotheran.
"Ferishah's Fancies"	19	10	0	Sotheran.
"La Saisiaz, &c."	17	0	0	Sotheran.
"Agamemnon of Æschylus"	25	10	0	Sotheran.
"Parleyings with Certain People"	27	10	0	Sotheran.
"Dramatic Idyls" (Second series)	20	10	0	Pearson.
"Aristophanes' Apology"	28	0	0	Sotheran.
	£158	0	0	

The seven small morocco volumes, therefore, made £158, Mr. Sotheran buying six of them at a total cost of £137 10s. A couple of very interesting letters from Mrs. Browning made only £4 4s. and £4 respectively.

Then came the Browning MSS. How far the poet was justified in acting as he did is open to question: for his own part he seemed at first to doubt the wisdom of the course he took. "The whole matter," said he in an early letter, "is one about which I am in great ignorance of the proper etiquette one is bound by on these occasions; and I very cheerfully accept your assurance that there is nothing at all immoral in what you propose to do, and, consequently, are quite at liberty to do."

The next poet whose manuscripts came under Mr. Hodge's hammer was Burns. A letter to Mr. Dunlop, dated 1787, made £15; while a bound collection of MSS. and letters in the poet's autograph fetched no less than £60.

"Now then we leave Burns and goto Byron," said the Knight of the Hammer; and prices at once rose. A letter written a few days after the poet's marriage made £32, while others ranged in price from £3 15s. to £30. From Byron to Carlyle is—alphabetically speaking—only a step; and it was not long before the handwriting of the Sage of Chelsea was passed around the table. One letter went for £2 2s., another for £4 4s., a third for £1 16s., and a piece of autograph MS. for 8s.!

The next autographs of interest which were reached were from the pen of Cowper. A letter referring to his work upon Homer—the signature cut away—was sold for £1 6s.; another, written while the poet was studying under an attorney in 1762, made £7 15s.; while two others fetched £9 and £2 respectively. Cromwell's sign manual to a warrant on vellum, dated August 14, 1656, was knocked down at £6 6s. An autograph MS., by Charles Darwin, on the effect of different kinds of pollen, made £3 19s., and a batch of twelve letters to Professor Owen on scientific subjects, £8 8s.

The next seven lots consisted of proof-sheets of various works by De Quincey, with the author's autograph corrections, the prices of which ranged from six shillings to £10 10s. After these came odd letters from Dibdin, Dickens, Disraeli, Garrick, and Goethe, together with several parcels of autograph letters addressed to Abraham Hayward from more or less distinguished persons. They did not on the whole excite a particularly keen competition. To-day will be sold letters and autographs from the pens of Hunt, Kingsley, Lamb, Landor, Longfellow, Macaulay, Nelson, Rossetti, Scott, and Thackeray. But the most important items of the sale were dispersed when the "batch of Browning letters" were knocked down to Mr. Sotheran and another for £158.

KENT COAL AND THE CHANNEL TUNNEL.

INCREASED CAPITAL AND A CHANCE OF PETROLEUM.

An "extraordinary" meeting was held at the Charing Cross Hotel, at noon yesterday, for the purpose of receiving a report upon the present condition of the works of the Channel Tunnel, and of deciding what should be the next step to be taken. The meetings are usually called for the chief temple of City meetings, the Cannon-street Hotel; and the change of venue, it was understood, was made in consequence of Sir Edward Watkin's continued ill-health: "a little accident which has proved more serious than was expected," he said. In his speech, Sir Edward referred to the success of the borings, and recommended their continuation for a depth of another 1,000 ft. if necessary. Should the result be satisfactory, great commercial advantage would follow to the company. Further machinery and diamond drills were to be used, and on the completion of investigations it would have to be decided whether a separate mineral company should be formed, the shares to be offered exclusively to Channel Tunnel shareholders. The definite report of the engineer (Mr. Brady) about the coal showed that a seam had been discovered 1,180 feet from the surface, and extended for a thickness of 3 ft. 6 in., with 4 inches of shale and sandstone in the middle. What was wanted was authority for further researches. The fuel struggle now going on showed the necessity of opening up every available mineral supply. To one Government and another it had been proposed that a sum of money should be annually voted for explorations of the kind suggested. The Government did not seem to consider it their duty to do anything in this way, and the present Government (he was ashamed to repeat) appeared to consider it not only wrong and improper, but a positive sin to think of being able to transport persons and goods from England to the Continent except by going over the surface of the sea. By risking about 6d. a share more the company could finally solve a great problem; it would not be money thrown away. Already something had been discovered, and more might be found. "I am no geologist," said the chairman, "but I think there are indications of the presence of petroleum." The moral support of the shareholders would allow them to proceed with great hope in a venture honourable, and, he hoped, profitable to the proprietors. The sum named would produce about £5,000 or £6,000. They had plenty of money, and might not have to call another farthing, but they wanted to be prepared.

Colonel Champion thought it would be very advantageous to prove the utter absurdity of the bugbear of invasion, and entered into an elaborately detailed scheme, in which an entrance to the tunnel six miles inland, a lift to Dover Castle, dynamite, and the telephone, were so prominent as to suggest that some pages of "Looking Backward" were being read.

Mr. Pochin congratulated the company on one of the greatest discoveries for many years, but referred regretfully to his connection with coal interests in other parts of England.

Sir Edward Watkin, in reply, said the company might inaugurate an industrial revolution by their "find." The Government showed culpable negligence in not caring to develop the hidden mineral resources of the country, and in refusing to do all they could to make the English railway system continuous with that of the Continent. In a short time, all that would separate the English railway system from the Indian would be twenty miles of water, which would cut off this country from her own possessions. Why should there be no means of communication except the surface of the sea, with its risks, discomforts, and dangers? As a man, he respected the President of the Board of Trade (a long correspondence with whom he read), but as a man of business—a very different thing—he had a very mean opinion of him.

The resolution for increasing the capital was unanimously carried, the chairman remarking that a tunnel between Scotland and Ireland was not so easy as that to France, but he and Mr. Brady knew how it could be done and where, and he thought it would be a graceful act if the Government would make it—and the fortunes of Ireland at the same time.

THE MERSEY TUNNEL RAILWAY COMPANY.

At the half-yearly meeting of the Mersey Tunnel Railway Company at the Westminster Palace Hotel yesterday, the chairman, Mr. Francis Fox, in moving the adoption of the report, stated that in the six months past the receipts had been increased and the expenses considerably reduced, but he did not consider this reduction satisfactory altogether. They must bear in mind that, owing to the coal and other strikes, and the consequent unsatisfactory state of the labour market, the working expenses had been unusually heavy. Their trade at present was only in passengers, and as they were in competition with the ferry-boats their prices were necessarily very low. He hoped, however, soon to extend the railways on both sides of the Mersey to create a regular good and thorough passenger traffic with very little extra expense. Mr. Spencer Balfour, M.P. seconded the motion. He congratulated the company on its present outlook. The report was adopted.

IS THE DISCOUNT SYSTEM DOOMED?

THE OPINIONS OF SOME SUBURBAN BOOKSELLERS.

THE articles on the discount system recently published in these columns appear to have created some interest in the trade, and we have received several letters on the subject. Most of these are from the suburbs, and, as the views of the suburban bookseller have not yet been put forward, it may be well to quote from these letters at some length:—

Mr. Charles Roberts, of the Brompton-road, does not object to the cash discount for cash. That is "only fair and reasonable, but it should include no booking." He thinks "one point might fairly be agreed upon without disturbing the retail trade or dealing arbitrarily with the public—namely, only to allow twopence in the shilling on books procured to order. In many cases 25 per cent. is all we are allowed by the trade on single books."

Mr. C. E. Sinclair, of 44, Porchester-road, writes in the following terms: —Now that you have taken the opinions of the aristocrats of the book trade—the classes, so to speak—would it not be as well to hear what the masses have to say? Mr. Alfred Denny points out that a distinction must be made between the large and the small bookseller. If your representative interviewed say ten of the suburban booksellers, I have no doubt he would soon discover what that distinction is. Mr. Macmillan wants to adopt the same terms for books that newspapers are supplied at. A 6d. newspaper is charged 5d. to the trade, and a 1s. one 10d. Full price is always obtained for a newspaper, and why should it not be obtained for a book? You state in your article that the bookseller is the master of the situation. I don't think he is. Why? I will state a case. A traveller from one of the large publishers calls upon me during the year; about October he ceases to call for orders. I discover the reason for this by seeing that two large linen-drapers in the neighbourhood (who have fitted up a portion of their premises specially for the book trade) sell the goods of this publisher cheaper than they can be obtained by the retail dealer. So that at the best time of the year for bookselling the legitimate bookseller is robbed of his trade. After Christmas this linendraper "eases off" his bookselling venture—in fact, he takes the cream and leaves only the skim. Believe me, no good will come of this agitation unless the publishers combine.

The same difficulty is pointed out by "E. P.":—Any difficulty in answering the question raised in your issue of the 14th inst. in relation to the "Bitter Cry of the Country Bookseller," rests not with the "discount bookseller," as is generally supposed, but with those publishers who (acting on the false teaching of a political economy which laughs to scorn the idea of ethics in trade) make the price charged to the wholesale purchaser dependent upon the amount of his order. If this injustice, so widely practised by producers generally, could be controlled, and the lowest price to any be legally recognized as the only charge to all, nothing more could be required.

A "Bookseller who does his own collecting," hardly thinks Mr. Macmillan the man who ought to have raised the question, especially when it is considered at what terms publishers west of Temple Bar supply their books and magazines to the trade. "No wonder West-end publishers get up an agitation when they find booksellers prefer avoiding them; let them teach their tyrannical and almost overbearing assistants to treat small booksellers' collectors on the equal terms with the bigger people. . . . When I started business some years ago I found I could not sell a book unless I allowed the regular discount; but I put up with it and persevered, and now, besides supplying a large amount of books and working a library, I take about 1,000 magazines and reviews of 6d. or above monthly; should I have this trade if there were no discount prices? There are tradebooksellers who would find means to supply country tradesmen (who, by-the-by, generally take up other things) on very favourable terms, if the publishers treated them with consideration; and against a country tradesman's 'carriage' a London tradesman has his collector to pay, and a country tradesman can generally make arrangements with the carriers to have any reasonable number of trade parcels from town at a fixed yearly payment."

In connection with the fact that the large discount bookseller practically makes his own terms, the following extract from the letter of "Publishers and Booksellers" will be read with interest:—Some time since we published a book which was favourably reviewed by over 100 leading papers, and, as this meant a good demand for the work, we were waited upon by one of the large "discount booksellers," and offered an order for 3,000 copies at 10d. each, the marked price being 2s. As he intended to sell them on the usual terms—25 per cent.—he would make 8d. on each one sold; while the smaller bookseller would be charged 1s. 5d. each, and earn 1d. only.

Mr. Roberts, of Charlotte-street—a London bookseller—is confident that the publisher alone would benefit from the change which Mr. Frederick Macmillan has suggested, and he thinks that the agitation will "end in smoke." "The discount system is so thoroughly established," says he, "that the booksellers might almost as well try to stop publishing itself as to abolish that which so many of them are now denouncing. The proffered assistance of the publishers to bring about a reformation is a new phase of philanthropic enterprise. They have nothing to lose, and something worth having to gain. Why not begin at home, and make the publishers allow their customers a better margin of profit? They can erect fine houses and send their sons to Universities, at the expense of their authors and their booksellers, the latter of whom cut each other's throats over a fraction of a penny profit. The provincial bookseller would naturally jump at any system which gave him a penny or twopence more on every shilling book. It has been suggested that the publishers should only allow twopence in the shilling, besides discount on bills, to the booksellers. What a fine stroke of unselfish generosity! But, perhaps, their intention is to hand over this extra profit—when they get it—to the authors, which is certainly very doubtful. Reformation is undoubtedly needed, but the reformers have begun at the wrong end. I venture to think that the publishers have just as little reason for complaint as the public, who profit by the absence of combination. Amalgamation, if effected at all, should be carried out among the booksellers themselves. But this again is scarcely practicable, for in so many—in fact, most—instances the publisher and the bookseller are identical."

It is pointed out to us that our representative, in reporting his conversation with Messrs. Marshall Brothers, inadvertently made them describe the system of charging 5 per cent. commission for "collecting" as an "imposition." The charge is made for credit accounts, and Messrs. Marshall inaugurated a wholesale cash system, which enabled them to forgo the commission and to place the country bookseller on a better footing. Whatever may be thought of the commission system, it is only fair to state that they did not describe it as an "imposition."

Rev. W. Wright, D.D., of the British and Foreign Bible Society, has started for China, with the view of organising fresh arrangements for bringing out the Scriptures adaptable for the people of that empire.

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The SUBSCRIPTION LIST OPENS THIS DAY (Friday), the 21st inst., and will CLOSE on or before TO-MORROW, the 22nd inst.

ELMORE'S WIRE MANUFACTURING COMPANY (LIMITED).

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1886, whereby the liability of the shareholders is limited to the amount of their shares.

CAPITAL £300,020; divided into 150,000 Ordinary Shares of £2 each, and 10 Founders' Shares of £2 each.

Applications have been privately received for a very large proportion of the present issue, but absolutely no preference in allotment will be given to these applications beyond one-third of the shares now offered for subscription.

The present subscription is limited to 100,000 ordinary shares. The price of this issue is £3 per share, being at £1 per share premium (half the premium will be carried to a Reserve Fund; the remaining half is payable to Elmore's Patent Copper Depositing Company, Limited), payable as follows:—5*s.* per share on application; 25*s.* per share on allotment (this payment includes the premium of 20*s.* per share); 10*s.* per share on the 2nd June; 10*s.* per share on the 1st August; and 10*s.* per share on the 1st November, 1890.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

GEORGE SMITH, Esq. (Chairman of the Kent Water Works Company, and Director of the Central Bank of London, Limited), West Bank, Lewisham-hill.

William Elmore, Esq., Spring-grove, Thwaitegate, Leeds.

Sir John H. Morris, K.C.S.I., 88, Queen's-gate, S.W., Director of the Namaqua Copper Company (Limited).
E. J. Carson, Esq., Rydal, Surbiton-hill Park, Surrey, Director of the Cape Copper Company (Limited).
John MacFarlan, Esq., Invermay, Wimbledon, Surrey, Director of the Rio Tinto Copper Company (Limited).
J. Jepson Atkinson, Esq., Cosgrove Priory, Northants.
J. T. Cooper, Esq., Cregg, Nightingale-lane, S.W.
} Directors of Elmore's Patent Copper Depositing Company (Limited), and will join the Board after allotment.

BANKERS.—Martin and Co., 68, Lombard-street, E.C.
BROKERS.—Derenburg and Co., 9, Drapers'-gardens, E.C.
SECRETARY (pro tem.).—Mr. J. Shurmer.
OFFICES.—20, Bucklersbury, E.C.
SOLICITORS.—Hollams, Sons, Coward, and Hawksley, Mincing-lane, E.C.
AUDITORS.—Deloitte, Dever, Griffiths, and Co., 4, Lothbury, E.C.
WORKS MANAGERS.—Messrs. F. E. and A. S. Elmore.
WORKS.—Haigh Park, near Leeds.

This Company is formed to acquire the exclusive British licence to make all kinds of metal wire, ribbon, tape, and rod by the Elmore processes, with the sole right to grant sub-licences for the same; it is formed pursuant to the original intention of the licensing company, which was to have a separate company and capital to carry out the great amount of work the directors were certain would be offered to the wire manufacturing department.

The Company is launched at a favourable time in consequence of the very rapid extensions and developments now about to be made in the Telegraphic and Cable Services, and by the establishment of numerous Central Electric Lighting Stations in London and throughout the country, and other applications of electricity, which have produced and must still more create an unprecedented demand for pure copper wire of the highest electrical conductivity obtainable.

By the Elmore process, in the one operation of refining the copper from the rough Chili bars, pure copper in the form of a cylinder (from which the wire is drawn direct) is automatically produced, and the gold, silver, and impurities are extracted.

The fact of the Elmore wire being drawn directly from the electro-deposited copper without melting ensures the maximum purity, and consequently the maximum conductivity attainable in copper, therefore it cannot fail to be highly appreciated by cable, telegraph, telephone, and other electrical engineers.

Messrs. Clark, Forde, and Taylor, the well known experts, who have carried out an extensive series of experiments on Elmore's copper wire, and have carefully investigated its electrical and mechanical properties, state in their first reports:—"In the following report we shall speak of the conducting power of what is usually called 'pure' copper as the conductivity of standard copper. This standard is founded on the experiments of Dr. Matthiesson, and represented the highest conductivity he ever obtained with the most elaborate precautions, and for many years it was believed to be the extreme limit of conducting power for copper . . . denoted by 100." Messrs. Clark, Forde, and Taylor certify that the mean of the conductivities of three samples of Elmore Copper Wire in terms of the standard for hard copper as well as in that for annealed copper, is as follows:—

Conductivity of Annealed Wire in terms of Standard for Annealed Copper,	Conductivity of Annealed Wire in terms of Standard for Hard Copper,
102.38.	104.44.

"We drew the larger wire through the 13 holes in a draw plate (the last hole being of agate) without annealing, and its hardness may be judged of by the fact that its breaking strain was at the rate of 29 tons per square inch, with an elongation under that strain of only ¾ per cent. We have been greatly interested in this wire, as its conducting power is higher than that of any sample we have hitherto tested. The mechanical, as well as the electrical, properties of your copper wire are excellent."

In a further report, dated 21st February, 1890, they say:—"We have carefully tested the sample of copper you handed to us in the spirally cut tube form, and find that its electrical and mechanical properties are practically identical with those obtained from the previous tests made by us on Mr. Elmore's wire . . . the specific gravity of the copper received was 8.944 . . . A series of observations was made on the temperature coefficient of this copper, and the results obtained confirm absolutely its value as given by us in our first report to Mr. Elmore."

From the foregoing it will be seen that the Elmore Wire is capable of being drawn extremely hard, of great tensile strength, at the same time retaining its extremely high conducting power. For use in submarine cable construction it is equally capable of being made very soft. It is therefore believed that the wire produced by this Company and its licensees will secure the monopoly for the supply of wire for telegraphic and cable purposes, as it fulfils all the conditions required.

The Directors are satisfied that this superiority is of great value, and that the Elmore Wire will become the standard for electric and general purposes.

Very careful estimates of the cost of manufacturing wire by the Elmore process, and of the profits obtainable on the basis of the Company's proposed output of 100 tons per week, have been prepared by Mr. William Elmore, with the result that the Directors feel confident that this Company will be able to produce copper wire in chemical purity, specific gravity, tensile strength, mechanical properties, electrical conductivity, ductility, and malleability, superior to anything of the kind which has ever been produced by any other process, and yielding a profit of over £100,000 per annum, exclusive of Royalties on Sub-Licences.

The essential and indisputable facts which practically guarantee the success of this Company are as follows:—

1. The process produces an article of commanding superiority over anything in competition with it.
2. The cost of manufacture is far less than that of the best quality of copper wire hitherto produced.

Elmore's Patent Copper Depositing Company (Limited) have undertaken to make and sell a few tons of wire per month (by plant already established at their Tube Works) during the erection of this Company's Works, and so enable this Company to at once take orders upon which to start work immediately on completion of its plant.

The purchase-money to be paid by the Company to Elmore's Patent Copper Depositing Company (Limited) is £75,000, and half the amount of premiums received by any issue of shares by this Company, and also the allotment of the ten Founders' Shares of £2 each.

The Founders' Shares will not be entitled to any dividend until 20 per cent. per annum has been earned on the Ordinary paid-up Capital of the Company in any year, after which the surplus profits will be divided, as to one moiety, to the holders of the Ordinary Shares, and, as to the other moiety, to the holders of the Founders' Shares.

No promotion money has been or will be paid, and all the preliminary expenses (including brokerage) up to the first allotment of shares will be paid by Elmore's Patent Copper Depositing Company (Limited).

Application will be made to the London Stock Exchange for settlement and quotation.

The following agreement has been entered into:—An agreement dated the 17th day of March, 1890, made between Elmore's Patent Copper Depositing Company (Limited) of the one part, and this Company of the other part.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association, the above Agreement, and Reports of the various authorities quoted herein, together with specimens of articles manufactured under the process, can all be inspected at the Company's Offices, where, as also of the Bankers and Brokers, Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained.

If the whole amount applied for by any applicant be not allotted, the surplus amount paid on deposit will be appropriated towards the sum due on allotment, and where no allotment is made the application money will be returned in full.

London, 17th March, 1890.

Applications for shares may also be made by letter, in the following form:—

TO THE DIRECTORS OF ELMORE'S WIRE MANUFACTURING COMPANY (LIMITED).

Gentlemen,—I hereby request you to allot me shares in your Company, on the terms of your Prospectus, dated 17th March, 1890, and I agree to accept the same (or any smaller number that may be allotted me), and to pay the instalments thereon when due, in accordance with the terms of the Prospectus and the Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association, and I agree to waive any fuller compliance with Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, than that contained in such Prospectus.

I enclose cheque for £ , being a deposit of 5*s.* per Share applied for by me.

Signature..........
Name (in full) ....
Residence ....
Description..........
Date .... 1890.

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Paid in Claims, £7,700,000.

Estd. 1835.

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